

CALENDAR—MAY

Tuesday 1	2.00pm	Julian Group
Wednesday 2	12 noon	Coffee in Church
	12.30pm	Lunchtime recital—Helen Lacey—Soprano
Thursday 3	11.00am	Holy Communion, followed by coffee
Sunday 6	8.00am	Holy Communion—BCP
	10.15am	Family Eucharist
	6.30pm	Compline
Monday 7	<i>The Church is closed on this Bank Holiday</i>	
Tuesday 8	2.00pm	Julian Group
Wednesday 9	12 noon	Coffee in Church
	12.30pm	Lunchtime recital—Alex Hughes—Piano
Thursday 10	11.00am	Holy Communion, followed by coffee
Sunday 13	8.00am	Holy Communion—BCP
	10.15am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30pm	Christian Aid Commissioning Service
Monday 14	10.15am	Tiny Ones Together Service
	2.30pm	Holy Communion at Rockdale House
Tuesday 15	2.00pm	Julian Group
Wednesday 16	12 noon	Coffee in Church
	12.30pm	Lunchtime Recital—Letitia Perry—Soprano
Thursday 17	<i>Ascension Day</i>	
	11.00am	Holy Communion, followed by coffee
	11.45am	Holy Communion at Emily Jackson House
	8.00pm	Sung Eucharist
Friday 18	7.30pm	Food for Thought
Saturday 19	7.00pm	Concert in aid of Mary's Meals
Sunday 20	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.15am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30pm	Compline
Monday 21	10.15am	Tiny Ones Together Service
	8.00pm	PCC meeting in the Stanway Area
Tuesday 22	2.00pm	Julian Group
Wednesday 23	12 noon	Coffee in Church
	12.30pm	Lunchtime Recital—Martin Nicholls—Baritone and Derek Watmough—Piano
Thursday 24	11.00am	Holy Communion, followed by coffee
Sunday 27	8.00am	Holy Communion
	10.15am	Parish Eucharist
	6.30pm	Compline
Monday 28	10.15am	Tiny Ones Together Service
	8.00pm	MOG meeting in the Parish Room
Tuesday 29	2.00pm	Julian Group
Wednesday 30	12 noon	Coffee in Church
	12.30pm	Lunchtime Recital—Dominick Felix, Tenor and Joana Gills—Soprano
Thursday 31	11.00am	Holy Communion, followed by coffee
	11.45am	Holy Communion at Emily Jackson House

JUNE 2012

Friday 1	12 noon	Book Group meets in the Parish Room
Sunday 3	8.00am	Holy Communion—BCP
	10.15am	Family Eucharist
	12 noon	Church Jubilee Lunch
	6.30pm	Compline
Monday 4	<i>Diamond Jubilee Holiday</i>	
Tuesday 5	<i>Diamond Jubilee Holiday</i>	
Wednesday 6	12 noon	Coffee in Church
	12.30pm	Lunchtime recital—Jackie Sanjana & John Parker, Horns, Arran Keith—Piano
Thursday 7	11.00am	Holy Communion, followed by coffee

The Vicar Writes

Dear Friends

While this edition of Crossway was being put together, a member of the congregation queried what the entry in the Book of Common Prayer meant, called "The Invention of the Cross" remembered on May 3rd. I admitted I did not know but went away and googled it (as is the spirit of the age).

The Invention of the Cross is the day when the church used to remember Helena mother of the Emperor Constantine discovering the original cross in Jerusalem in the 4th century. The story goes that the cross was found amidst many others, and was discovered to be the true cross as on each one a corpse was placed and the one where the corpse returned to life was the cross of Jesus. The cross was then taken to the church of the holy sepulchre and notable benefactors were given a piece of the true cross. Although many people thought it would be used up, it was apparently able to grow again and to reproduce itself. The Invention of the Cross is now remembered on Holy Cross Day in September - invention meaning discovery.

In Medieval times relics were very important, the great Sainte-Chapelle in Paris was built to house the French King's collection including the "Crown of Thorns", and Martin Luther's Prince had 300,000 relics including hay from the Manger itself! We today see these relics as superstitious, daft or macabre but our ancestors took great pride in their collections, as if owning them was offering positive proof of the truth of the gospel and who could doubt when you could see the very shroud that the crucified Jesus was supposedly wrapped in (as you still can in Turin).

In our own age our faith is not a matter of proofs and evidence like a forensic operation but a sense of belief and relationship, of honest struggle, with moments of enlightenment and times perhaps of doubt.

Christianity is not about simple answers and leaving our brains at the door but learning and growing, trying to make sense of the world around us and seeking out the hand and mind of God in the experiences we have in life. We all crave certainty in an untidy world, to see the relics and know but that is to downplay faith, belief and our own humanity. If Christianity were only about evidence and proof then we would all be the same, rather than a diverse, thoughtful and questioning people – that is why we have minds and free will. That is why we are individuals and not robots.

God bless

Mark

The Curate writes

In this post Easter season and this month of May, we have the opportunity to celebrate two great festivals of our Christian calendar - Ascension Day on May 17th and ten days later on the 27th - Pentecost. The two I believe are an essential part of our life and faith and are indeed linked.

On Ascension Day we remember how Jesus ascended into heaven to be at the right hand of his Father. As he ascended he left us the task, as his disciples, of continuing his work on earth. His work for us as his follower, as Matthew reminds us was to "go and make disciples of all nations." Each one of us has a part to play in the *missio dei* - God's mission. It is easy though to just leave this to somebody else, thinking it is not our responsibility or that we are not equipped to fulfil that task. Those first disciples felt very inadequate for what lay ahead of them. With God's strengthening and equipping they were however able to do this. We too with that same strength are able to fulfil what God demands of us.

Further, as we celebrate Pentecost God does indeed equip us. For it is in the sending of his Holy Spirit that we are equipped to carry out what God desires of us to do. The gift of the Holy Spirit empowers us. What we do for God I believe we cannot do in our own strength. As Paul wrote "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." Jesus as he ascended into heaven did not leave us as orphans, ill equipped and with nothing. He promised the sending of his Holy Spirit.

We have that tremendous gift of God's spirit in our lives, enabling us to fulfil his purposes. It was that spirit, which was given on that first day of Pentecost and it is that same spirit that strengthens and

equips us today. What we do, we cannot do in our own strength. Certainly in the first seven months since my ordination I have been only able to accomplish what I have with the power and equipping of God's Holy Spirit. To do things in my own strength will simply be fruitless. By God's grace I have that strengthening in my ministry.

As we again celebrate these great days in our Christian calendar may we be reminded of their significance in our Christian pilgrimage and may God continue to empower us by his Holy Spirit to accomplish his purposes in and for our lives.

May God bless you.

Anne

ST LUKE'S AWAY-GIVING

St Luke's Give-as-you-go scheme

In April £104.60 was collected for Sevenoaks Christian Counselling Service

THE CHARITY FOR MAY IS CORPORATION OF THE SONS OF THE CLERGY

The Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy is the leading grant-making charity helping Anglican clergy and their families in time of need. It plays an essential part in assisting them when faced by adversity and, by doing so, supports the framework of parish ministry so valued in our communities. This work has been carried out continuously since the Corporation's foundation in 1655 by a group of merchants in the City of London and of clergy who were sons of clergy (hence it's name), initially to address suffering and poverty due to the persecution of clergy who had remained loyal to the Crown during the Commonwealth.

The Corporation now offers financial help to serving clergy of the Anglican Communion and to Anglican clergy missionaries, and their families. Beneficiaries also include retired clergy and their spouses, their dependent children and sometimes unmarried elderly daughters of clergy.

In addition to assistance with health, mobility and other problems associated with old age, help with almost any setback or major concern can be considered. These might be bereavement expenses, unexpected household repairs or expenses, and particularly educational expenses for children including clothing and uniform costs, resource expenses (text books and computers - nowadays a necessity), school trips, music tuition and instruments and so on, in some cases up to university.

In parishes where it is unsafe to leave a house unattended contributions have been made towards the cost of "house sitters" to give the incumbent a chance to go on holiday, and grants are made to help with the costs of holidays themselves in cases of particular hardship. Grants are normally of at least £50, on average about £1000, and some nine hundred to one thousand are made each year.

The Corporation has been associated with this diocese since it came into being, with its first President being the then Bishop of Rochester. Its fundraising was initiated at a service in the old St Paul's Cathedral followed by a dinner in the Merchant Taylor's Hall, both of which still take place as its annual festival. The work of the Corporation is as important as it ever was and donations and legacies form a vital part of its income.

We are fortunate this year in being able to welcome Bishop Graeme Knowles to tell us about the Corporation at the Parish Eucharist on May 20th, so please plan to come to hear him and to give generously to this very important cause.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK - May 13th to 19th 2012
WE NEED YOU TO BE A VOLUNTEER COLLECTOR

Christian Aid provides hands-on, practical support work in-the-field that benefits millions living in poverty and in conditions unimaginable to most of us.

To be successful this nationally advertised event relies upon volunteers across the UK delivering envelopes early in the week and collecting them (filled with donations) before the end of the week. St Luke's would welcome your support of this event by collecting from some of the 500 houses in our Parish or from houses in the road in which you live in Sevenoaks. Every penny will help!

If you haven't volunteered before, please don't be daunted. Peter will explain the process and provide everything you need for a successful week.

Please register your offer to volunteer with Peter Ashwell (01732 461087) or add your name to the sheet at the back of the church for the parish collection.

Let's give the tools to help people in poverty out of poverty

Christian Aid Week: 13th – 19th May 2012

Thousands of churches will stand together this Christian Aid Week to speak out for change. Some 100,000 committed volunteers will go out and put their faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people. This includes Britain's largest house-to-house collection – an extraordinary act of witness, demonstrating to our communities that we care about poverty and justice.

This year, Christian Aid Week tells the story of remarkable change taking place in a community in rural Sierra Leone. Sierra Leone is one of the hungriest countries in the world. But, helped by Christian Aid partner the Methodist Church of Sierra Leone, some people there have found the tools to move beyond hunger and speak out for and act to implement the changes they want to see.

Christian Aid currently works with 507 partner organisations in 47 countries around the world. From Sierra Leone to Tajikistan, from Kenya to Bolivia, we are helping communities to make their voices heard and look towards a brighter future.

We believe that poverty is a scandal and that it can be ended. Look out for local events and discover how you can get involved by contacting Peter Ashwell (01732 461087) or by visiting caweek.org

'We organise a one-off event each year, which involves the whole community. And seeing everyone of all faiths and no faith working together for one cause is very uplifting and raises a large amount of money at the end.' - Christian Aid Week volunteer

Be a part of Christian Aid Week this year: if, together, we take small actions we can give people who want to help themselves the tools to make big changes.

£7 could buy a set of four hand tools for a farmer.

£50 could pay for advocacy training for two young people in a Kenyan slum, equipping them with the tools they need to pressure their government to provide essential services.

£125 could buy a reclaimed aluminium greenhouse for women working on market gardening projects in Tajikistan, providing a vital tool for growing vegetables in a harsh climate experiencing extremes of hot and cold.

What's Happening at St Luke's?

Christian Aid

The Commissioning Service will be at St Luke's this year on Sunday 13th May at 6.30pm, when we will be welcoming Christian Aid supporters from across the district at the start of Christian Aid week.

The service is open to all and features a presentation on the work of Christian Aid in Sierra Leone by Emma Kevan - Regional manager of Christian Aid

Ascension Day

This year Ascension Day falls on Thursday 17th May. We will be having our usual 11am service as well as a Sung Eucharist at 8pm, when the choir will be singing.

Evening Services in May

6th Compline

13th Commissioning Service for Christian Aid

20th Compline

27th Compline

June 3rd Extended Compline with readings for the Jubilee

10th Compline

17th Last Compline until October

Sunday 26th May—Pentecost

On the 26th as well as being the great festival of Whitsun, we will be looking after the Diocese of Rochester Olympic prayer baton. The baton is going to each parish in the deanery as a focus of prayer for the Olympics and the 26th will weave the flame of the holy spirit with the flame of the Olympics.

The Queen's Diamond Jubilee

On Sunday 3rd June, we will be holding a special Family Eucharist for the Jubilee, with music from the Coronation and a celebratory theme. The service will be followed by a "big lunch" for the congregation, joining with millions across the country. If you know someone who might be on their own that day - why not buy them a ticket and invite them for lunch.

In the evening compline will have a Jubilee theme with readings and music to celebrate sixty years of the Queen's reign.

Lifelong learning

As part of our Lifelong Learning programme, Anne is going to lead a course on the history of **Christian Spirituality**. Due to family illness, Anne has had to postpone the start of the course. Please check the pew sheet for details and the re-arranged course.

Mark's church history will run from June to July, looking at history of the church from the Acts of the Apostles to the present day. It will be a whistle stop tour but during the autumn/winter Mark will be running a part 2, focussing on one particular period - which the group for Part 1 will decide!

The structure of the course will be as follows:

Week 1 - The New Testament

Week 2 - The early church

Week 3 - Monastic life

Week 4 - The Reformation

Week 5 - The church after the Civil War

Week 6 - The Victorian Church

The course is about the history of the church but especially looking at how we have been influenced by the past and how our present practice is largely a result of the tradition we inherit. So not too many dates and facts but some interesting debate.

The course will be starting on Friday 15th June and will continue for the next five Friday afternoons at the vicarage. The sessions will run from 2.30-4.30pm.

The next course will be looking at worship and sacrament beginning in the autumn.

Book Reading Group

Our next book is Heaven by Paula Gooder. Paula is a Reader, and also a lecturer in New Testament and theology, well known for her books and her talks, she has an approachable style and is a good read.

We'll be discussing the book on Friday 1st June at noon in the Parish Room - everybody welcome.

Talking Crossway

Over a number of years Crossway has been faithfully recorded for those who have sight problems. A number of members of the congregation have been regular listeners but we wanted to remind everyone that this service is available to those who find seeing difficult or for those who would like to hear Crossway rather than read it. The tape is available from the Parish Room each month and comes out on the same weekend as the magazine itself.

If you know anyone who might like to take advantage of the scheme, please let them know, otherwise they will miss out on Crossway!

Pumpkin Competition

Plants will be on sale mid-May onwards for the competition, with a £10 book token for the winner (the grower of the largest pumpkin), to be weighed at church in the autumn.

Sarah and Harry Rogers

St Luke's Fellowship

On 31st May we will be having our second outing of the Summer to Great Comp Garden at Crouch. If you would like to come, please speak to Ruth in the Parish Office, also letting her know if you are able to drive or would like transport.

Programme for 2012

31st May—Visit to Great Comp Garden at Crouch

21st June—Visit to Ightham Mote

26th July—A visit to The Friars at Aylesford

25th August—Afternoon Tea in the Vicarage Garden

27th September—Planning Meeting

Everyone is welcome to come to any of our meetings. Fellowship gives us the opportunity to meet together midweek, do come along to one of our trips or talks, more details will be published in future magazines

Annual Parochial Church Meeting

At the Annual Parochial Church Meeting on Monday 30th April, Tim Pearce was re-elected Churchwarden and Michael Curry was elected to succeed Ronald Adamson who has stepped down after four years. Ronald was warmly thanked for his dedication and hard work as Warden. Andrew Levick, Nick Donaldson and Sarah Jenkinson were elected to PCC, Ros Ward and Gina Short having completed their three year term.

Two presentations were made:

The Organ - Paul Isom introduced the situation regarding the organ. Our current organ is nearing the end of its life and over the past few months PCC had researched a possible replacement. A new pipe organ was not feasible for financial and spatial reasons, the two possible redundant organs could not be fitted into the church and so the best solution was a combination organ with a mix of electronic and pipework.

The cost of the organ would be in the region of £150,000 - the PCC had supported the proposal and had pledged some of its reserves to fund the new instrument, The church has a long and public tradition of choral music which this organ would safeguard and enhance.

In order that we as a church own the proposal, members of the congregation were asked to pledge money to the proposal. Three members of the congregation had already done so, and those who wished to pledge money were asked to contact John Boreham with the details of their pledge. At this stage we are asking for pledges not actual money. This method had been chosen as it would be difficult to run a long fundraising campaign with lots of small events for the project. Those who wished to give were asked to contact John by May 20th, so that John could give a total figure to PCC (individual pledges would be confidential to John). There was a possibility of some sponsorship in the future, with individuals sponsoring pipes and stops. The main push was to encourage pledges at this stage.

The Way Ahead - In their reports both Tony Adams and John Boreham referred to the growing deficits and the falling planned giving figures in recent years. The church has been very fortunate in having the substantial legacy left by Gwen Bewsher, but the accounts showed that although we were funding capital projects, we were also using these reserves to fund our deficit on our everyday expenditure. It was also noted that decisions made about the Bequest had been made prior to the Financial crisis and the fall in interest rates. The meeting saw the danger of frittering away the legacy and a number of people believed that we should be encouraged to review our planned giving in the light of the situation.

Mark made a presentation to the meeting expressing how we could proceed.

- For us all to pray about the current situation
- A questionnaire was being drawn up to enable members of the congregation to express their views on the future of the church, and the priorities and opportunities as people saw them. Everything was open for discussion and would be taken into account.
- In September the results would be collated and the PCC would have an away-day to plan a vision statement and a strategy for the future.
- In November the vision and strategy would be presented to the congregation as a whole.

- We as a congregation would then be challenged over finances and resources to enable that strategy and vision to become a reality. To boost income or to make cuts in expenditure in line with the vision.

We have a great responsibility but great opportunities and above all a gracious God.

Dates for your Diary

Sunday 20th May - Bishop Graeme Knowles speaking at the Parish Eucharist on behalf of the Corporation of the Sons of the Clergy

Sunday 3rd June - lunch in the Church Hall to celebrate the Queen's Diamond jubilee

Sunday 1st July - Junior Church Prize-giving followed by the church picnic in Knole Park

Sunday 15th July - Mark and Clare's strawberry tea (note change of date)

Saturday 8th September - Anne's ordination to the priesthood at St Andrew's Paddock Wood

Monday 1st October - Archdeaconry Vocation Road Show in the church

Sunday 7th October - Harvest Festival

Sunday 14th October - Patronal Festival

Sevenoaks Festival 2012

Once again this year St Luke's will be supporting the Sevenoaks Festival, and hosting a wide range of events

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| June 24 th | Festival Eucharist – a celebration of 20 th century church music, followed by Organ Recital given by Paul Isom |
| June 26 th | Concert by the Kemsing Singers and other voices |
| June 27 th | Wednesday Recital - Solefield School Choir |
| July 3 rd | New production by Cyclops |
| July 4 th | Wednesday Recital – Emilie Capulet - Piano |

More details in the June edition

The Bewsher Travel Awards

I was recently lucky enough to receive the Gwen Bewsher travelling award from St Luke's which I am putting towards my summer in Argentina. I am going to be based in Cordoba –the second city of Argentina - working for an organisation called UVolunteer on a Gender Empowerment Programme. The Programme is dedicated to teaching women within the community about women's rights and providing support in a women's shelter. The Hogar de María "Madre Teresa de Calcuta" is a welfare organisation which manages a Shelter for single mothers and their babies, to help and protect them from abuse, abandonment, neglect, or when their rights or health are at risk.

I am setting out on the 1st of June and will be working on the project for a total of ten weeks after which I will spend a few weeks travelling around Argentina and learning about a whole new

country. I am very excited about my summer plans and incredibly grateful to St Luke's for making the trip a possibility. During my time out there I will be keeping everyone updated on my blog katherineskinner.blogspot.co.uk so if anyone is interested in finding out what I'm getting up to feel free to check it out!

When I'm back in September I will be giving a talk about my experience and would love to see as many friendly faces there that can make it.

Katherine Skinner

Bookworm's Corner": a regular series of reviews, from a Christian perspective, of books recently added to St. Luke's Library. They have been chosen to cover a variety of religious topics. Any opinions expressed are the writer's own.

PERSECUTED AND FORGOTTEN? A Report on Christians oppressed for their faith. Ed. John Pontifex and John Newton, (Aid to the Church in Need, 2011 edition).

Aid to the Church in Need is an international charity run by the Roman Catholic Church. They claim that Christianity is now "the world's most persecuted religion". They have collected and published recent and detailed evidence from 33 countries, which makes difficult and depressing reading. It includes continuous harassment, mob violence to which police turn blind eyes, slaughter of children, imprisonment or worse on trivial or trumped-up charges.

The majority of the 33 countries covered show Christian minorities being ill-treated by Muslims, often with the support of sectarian governments and legal systems. It also suggests that in some of these countries (such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia and Syria) similar treatment is handed out between Sunnis and Shiites. But Christian minorities are also persecuted elsewhere by Buddhists, Hindus and Jews, and there are also oddities (such as Cuba, Russia and Venezuela) where Christian *majorities* are persecuted by *secular* governments.

Detailed reading raises questions, such as:

1. to what extent are these persecutions not really religious but ethnic, political or economic?
2. where are governments actually fomenting mob violence and where are they just failing to respond when it happens?
3. there are 130 other countries, recognised by UN but not in the ACN report, where Christians are apparently not being systematically persecuted. Could (say) an Islamic charity produce a similar report on the persecution of Muslims in America, Britain, France, Germany, Holland or elsewhere?

We should be clear from the Old Testament, New Testament **and** Holy Qur'an, that a **faithful** member of **any** of the major religions (who therefore worships the one and only God) has been forbidden to show intolerance to anyone who believes or worships differently, let alone kill them. No human being is perfect so we must be on our guard that we can all get it wrong somewhere. So can we please all spread the good news that all religions demand tolerance of each other; and make or support non-violent public protest whenever we come across failures anywhere?

THE WOUNDED HEALER: Ministry in Contemporary Society. By Henri J. M. Nouwen (Darton, Longman 1979).

Henri Nouwen (apparently pronounced *Henry Now-win*) was born in 1932, was ordained a Priest, and died in 1996 all in Holland. However, he spent most of his life first in USA teaching at Universities and then in Canada working with mentally challenged people. He wrote some 40 books, and is much read and respected, particularly by Ministers for whom he mostly wrote (rather than theologians or laypeople).

This is one of his earliest works, which can be of value to any of us who hope to be of help to our fellow humans in trouble. His principle here is that we can be of most help to those who suffer from the same wounds that we ourselves suffer or have suffered. He is widely quoted by other religious writers and if there is any interest I will obtain some of his other works.

A GRIEF OBSERVED. By C. S. Lewis, (Faber, 1966).

Our Library has been lacking in books intended to help those who have directly to face the prospect of death, their own or others. This is probably because I and my predecessors funk'd the subject: a sad and cowardly decision, because we Christians perhaps above all others can and should take a positive and optimistic view.

This book is a classic. C. S. Lewis got married for the first time, and extremely happily, at the age of 58; but four years later he lost his wife to cancer and died himself at 65. Despite his deep and sincere faith, he was shattered by his loss. To help himself deal with his grief he kept a diary for a while in which he expressed very frankly and forcefully his developing feelings about his wife, himself and God. He must have made an early decision to share his experiences with others: there are only 64 pages.

Alan Wolfe.

Deanery News

On May 24th, Father Robin Jones will be inducted as the new Vicar of St John's. Father Robin is in his 30s, stands within the Anglo-Catholic tradition and is looking forward to working within the Deanery. Please keep him and his family in your prayers as they move to Sevenoaks and as Father Robin is inducted to the parish.

Please keep Revd John Benson, Vicar of Knockholt and Halstead in your prayers, as he has recently had an operation and is convalescing for the next six weeks.

PRAYER FOR SEVENOAKS

Between Easter and Pentecost our Lord Jesus appeared to the disciples on many occasions and I am thinking that there was a time of joy tainted with apprehension. I wonder if that is how we are feeling at this time about the next three months.

There will be the passage through the area of the Olympic Torch giving the opportunity to show our communal support and enjoyment of a once in a lifetime event.

There is the Queen's Jubilee Celebration with the opportunity for neighbours to come together perhaps supporting the Big Lunch initiative.

And then there is the big one The Paralympic Games at Brands Hatch.

All of these give us the opportunity to tell out the Gospel to our friends, neighbours and visitors from all over the world.

All of these events need three things; organisation, funding and Prayer.

Please come to support the next

**Prayer for Sevenoaks—Thursday 10 May
at Sevenoaks Community Centre 12.30 to 1.30**

Do please send any items for us to include.

Yours, in Jesus name

Alan Edwards,
Organiser

INTERCESSIONS—MAY

We pray for our parish and its people; bless them, and us. May we know Your presence and peace in our homes; fill them with Your love, and use them to Your glory.

This month we are asked to pray for:

1. Courage to follow the example of the Apostles
2. Teachers in the local community
3. Sensitivity to the needs of others
4. Those who suffer for their faith
5. Christians in the Middle East
6. Mark, our Vicar, and his work in the parish
7. The Tiny Tots Together Group
8. The confidence to bring new worshippers to St Luke's
9. Tim and Michael, our Churchwardens
10. All those who have recently become Christians
11. The unemployed and their families
12. Our Bishops, James and Brian
13. The leaders of Junior Church
14. Those known to us who are critically ill
15. Those who feel lonely and unloved
16. Those who care for sick and elderly relatives
17. Your protecting hand over your Church
18. The residents and staff at Emily Jackson House
19. Christian communities
20. Ourselves; that we may hear your voice more clearly
21. The members of the Fabric Committee
22. Reassurance in the face of doubts about our faith
23. Our Treasurer, Tony and the members of the Finance Committee
24. Those who spread Your word
25. Bible scholars
26. Our Archbishop Rowan and his wife Jane as they plan for the future
27. An awareness of the presence of the Holy Spirit
28. Nancy and all those who contribute to the music in our Church
29. Our families and friends
30. Social workers
31. The support of our families

Obituary

Doreen Brunet

3rd March 1929—9th April 2012

Doreen was born in Croydon in 1929, growing up in Thornton Heath. Her schooling was disrupted by the war, she remembered taking her School Certificate sheltering under a desk during an air raid, and her father was posted abroad for a number of years.

On leaving school she wanted to study agriculture at university but her father thought this was not a suitable subject for his daughter, so instead she read Biology and Geography at Reading although she chose agricultural options whenever possible. During a trip from University to a farm in Kent, she met Eric Brunet and they married in 1953. Doreen and Eric had six children and they also fostered two children from Biafra, so their home was busy but full of love.

Eric worked as an actuary until a severe stroke in his 50s changed the Brunets life completely. Doreen was to care for Eric for fifteen years until his death, but that care involved taking him on holiday to Greece and France as well as numerous other trips. After Eric's death, she missed him very much but found great comfort in her children and grand-children as well as her large garden

with its mix of produce and livestock.

Doreen was a caring woman, who worshipped at St Luke's for a number of years, until she herself became housebound. However she never lost touch with St Luke's as an avid reader of Crossway and Link, and was always asking after the congregation when she received communion each month. Her faith was very important to her, and sustained Doreen throughout her life, even though she never achieved her ambition to be a missionary.

Doreen will be missed by all who knew her but she leaves behind many happy memories, of a caring woman, nurturing her garden and her family, always proud of her children and grandchildren. She was never afraid to speak her mind but was always a practical, caring and prayerful person. After a good innings she died as she wanted at home in Morleys Farmhouse, and now rests in peace, reunited with Eric.

A 'GOOD FRIDAY' STORY

We were (once again) away for Easter with our family and mid-morning on Good Friday found us at Mevagissy in lovely sunshine thinking about coffee. We ordered some drinks from a harbour-side cafe and sat outside waiting for them to be brought to us. The table was not actually in the sun but the chap on the next table got up to leave and Ann asked if he had finished with it. The reply was in the affirmative but Ann noticed that he had left a pint of beer on the table and mentioned this to him. His response was that it was put there by him, and two others who had already left the cafe, as a memorial for a friend who was no longer with them.

After he had gone away we noticed a note under the beer glass. I cannot recall the exact words but it read something like 'Bindy – you served your country proud – from' and then three names of the chaps who left it. It seemed that Bindy had been in the armed services, perhaps in Afghanistan, and had died in action. It brought lumps to our throats and reminded us of the fragility of life and how precious it is and how devastated those three chaps must have felt. I suppose that all four of them had been together on various occasions but now there were only three.

What a day to find such a memorial, because it also served as a reminder of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the first Good Friday two thousand years ago. Bindy gave his life for others and Christ gave his for all of us. After we returned home I read, from the King James bible, the almost identical crucifixion stories in each of the three synoptic gospels – John tells it differently – and was reminded 'from the sixth hour there was darkness over all the land unto the ninth hour' and 'behold the veil of the temple was rent in twain' – these words from Matthew. We sat for a while after we had finished our drinks talking about the note and almost sharing in the loss. And I hoped that the pint and note would be left there for a while because of the poignancy of the story and because it may have reminded others of the first Good Friday.

As we left the table, very appropriately in the circumstances, a Good Friday procession approached led by a man carrying a cross, followed by an ordained minister and others, on their way to a service to remember the death and resurrection of Christ, through which we have been granted eternal life.

So although we were not in Church that day, the sad memorial for Bindy and what followed was a good lesson nevertheless.

John Boreham

