

Saints ALIVE

The magazine of:
All Saints, Leighton Buzzard
St. Nicholas, Hockliffe
St. Michael's, Eggington
St. Michael and All Angels,
Billington
The Good Shepherd, Sandhills

June 2023

70p

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Called to be the Body of Christ ***by Rev'd Kirsty Borthwick***



June begins with our annual celebration of Pentecost, when we give thanks for the Church across the ages and pay particular attention to the work of the Spirit.

The Spirit is that person of the Trinity which tends to 'draw the short straw' when it comes to our theology and preaching. The Spirit is hard to understand, and the Spirit can be confusing to encounter. But the Spirit is always at work, in our worship and throughout our lives. It is the Spirit who makes us the Church, binding us to one another like a divine glue, and sending us out into the world to be bearers of good news to a world in need.

As I write this, I'm preparing to head off on my curacy placement, engaging in ecumenical work – first by speaking about prayer at the Malines Conversations Group in Malta (an informal Anglican-Roman Catholic dialogue) and then visiting Fr Olof's parish in Mjölby, Sweden. I'll be coming home again just as you read this – so do ask me how it all went!

It seems so appropriate to be exploring the wider Church in this season in which the Church is our focus. And that's something we can all be exploring and rejoicing in, whether you're off on ecumenical adventures across Europe, or celebrating Pentecost closer to home. This Feast is a wonderful time to remind ourselves once again that the Church – and that's you and me - is called to be Christ in the world. We gather to worship so that we can be sent out. God transforms us every time we receive the Eucharist by sending his Spirit so that we become Christ's Body in all that we say and do.

So I encourage you to be confident that the Spirit lives in you, empowering you to live for Christ in the world. I encourage you to give thanks for the Church, to pray for its ministry, and to pray for ever more visible unity with our siblings in other denominations. I encourage you to support and pray for the work of Leighton Linlade Churches Together.

I encourage you too to pray for and with our Team Rector. Many of you will have heard about Mother Cate's new appointment to the parish of St Andrew's, Totteridge. As members of the Body of Christ in the Ouzel Valley, let's be praying for Cate and her family, and for the Body of Christ in that place, giving thanks for Cate's ministry amongst us and sending her off on 9th July with our prayers, and trusting in our unity with the Church in all places.

***Yours in Christ,
Mother Kirsty***

Our present pattern of services across the Ouzel Valley Team

All Saints

Sundays:

Please note new times which allow for cleaning between services

8am Holy Communion

9.30am Parish Eucharist

11.30am

1st & 3rd Sundays: All Age Service

2nd & 4th Sunday Holy Baptism

6pm Evening Prayer

1st Sunday: Choral Evensong Plus

3rd Sunday: followed by Benediction

Weekdays:

Holy Communion

7.30pm Tuesday

(Service of Healing on 3rd Tuesday)

10.00am Thursday

9.00am Saturday

Morning Prayer: St. Hugh's Chapel

9.00am Tuesday – Friday

St. Barnabas, Linslade

Sundays:

8am Said Eucharist

10am Parish Eucharist

6pm Evensong

www.stbarnabaslinslade.uk

St. Leonard's, Heath & Reach

Sundays:

8am: Holy Communion

11am Holy Communion (in church & via Zoom)

1st Sundays: Family Service

Tuesdays: 7pm Holy Communion

Morning Prayer via Zoom:

9.00am Monday - Saturday

www.saintleonardschurch.com

St. Michael's, Eggington

9.30am 1st & 3rd Sundays: Holy Communion

St. Nicholas', Hockliffe

9.30am 2nd Sundays: Family Communion

4th Sundays: Holy Communion

St. Michael's and All Angels, Billington

11.15am Holy Communion

Good Shepherd, Astral Park Sports & Community Centre, Johnson Drive, Sandhills, LU7 4AY:

Sundays at 9.45am:

1st Sunday: Holy Communion & CGS Juniors

2nd Sunday: 'In the Community', at Astral Park

3rd Sunday: Family Service

4th Sunday: Bring and share breakfast and Holy Communion

Free pop-up café every Sunday from 9.45am

Sunday Saints: for age 3+ year olds, meets during 9.30am Sunday service at All Saints.

All Saints Toddler Time: All Saints every Wednesday during term time, at 9.30am & at 1.30pm. £1.50 per parent / carer & child; 50p extra per child; refreshments included.

Leighton Young Singers Club: for children in Years 2-6, meets on Fridays at 6.30 - 7.30pm.

Bereavement Café: a support group offering friendship and understanding.

1st Sunday of the month, 2.30-4pm The Spire Coffee Shop, All Saints

Choir Practice: Friday evenings, 6.45 trebles; 7.30 adults.

Bellringers: Practice on Monday, 7.30pm-9.30pm.

Spire Coffee Shop: Tuesday, Friday & Saturday 10am-2pm.

Contact Details on Page 2.

News Roundup

Please be aware that Mother Cate is now working limited hours. In her absence please continue to contact the Parish Office one of the Churchwardens or Father Bernard Minton. As you know Mother Cate has been appointed as Vicar (0.5) for Totteridge St Andrew and her last Sunday with us is 9th July. There will be Evening Prayer with Music at 3pm that day followed by tea.

*** **

Roll up, roll up for a week of fun!

All Saints Holiday Club 14th - 18th

August

“It’s Circus Time”

Application forms now available
from the office.



Worth a smile

Miscellaneous observations on life

- ❖ I burn about 2000 calories every time I put on fitted sheets by myself.
- ❖ It’s weird, being the same age as old people.
- ❖ One who boasts of being a self-made person relieves the Lord of a lot of responsibility.
- ❖ If you can’t be kind, at least have the decency to be vague.
- ❖ Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.
- ❖ You know that indestructible black box that is used on airplanes? Why don’t they make the whole plane out of that stuff?
- ❖ As long as there are exams, there will be prayer in schools.



A local DJ was introducing a record at our annual church fete/parish party. “This next one,” he said, “is for Charlotte, a choir member, who is a hundred and eleven! Hey, Charlotte, congratulations on a ripe old age!”

There was a short pause and then the DJ said in a somewhat more subdued voice, “I’m sorry, I got it wrong. This next one is for Charlotte, who is ill.”



During our minister’s very lengthy sermon, a large plant suddenly fell over right behind the pulpit, crashing to the floor. He smiled sheepishly. “Well, that’s the first time I actually put a plant to sleep!”

Parish Registers

Holy Matrimony, April:

15: Jake Sanders & Alicia Taylor; 19: Philip Baldwin & Jade Rooney

'Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate'

Holy Baptism, April:

16: Connor Lee Johnson, Nadia Mann, Isabella Dorothy Mann, Nina Maria Alice Sajan, Wilbur Francis Sullivan

'One Lord, one faith, one baptism'

R.I.P. April:

4: Elizabeth Bodsworth at St. Barnabas; 19: Robert Walters at St. Nicholas

'Everyone who lives and believes in me will never die'

Years Mind, June:

1: Ena Edwins; 2: Barbara Macdonald; 3: Ira Bowerman; 4: Karl Jones; 5: Norman Griffiths, Henry Tomlinson; 7: Dorothy Speller, Beryl Jessup, Sidney Westwood, Iris Calamassi; 8: Robert Molloy, Doris Pullin, Shirley Jones; 9: Ann Meredith, Michael Nash; 11: Peter Beecroft, Brian Puddle; 13: Davina Baker, Jasmine Baker; 15: Jean Waudby, Cyril Burchell, Edith Cipullo; 17: James McLeod; 18: John Shelley; 20: Margaret Leath, George Willett, Doris Froud; 21: Marie Cooper; 23: Edgar Hart; 24: Norman Dillamore; 27: Elsie Beauchamp, Eddie Shephard; 28: David Ingledow, Rosemary Plenderleath; 30: Paul Bottos, Anthony Frasi



*If I should die before the rest of you,
Break not a flower nor inscribe a stone.
Nor when I am gone, speak in a Sunday voice,
But be the usual selves that I have known.*

*Weep if you must,
Parting is hell.
But life goes on.
So sing as well.*

Joyce Grenfell

Spring flower names from the Churchyard Challenge on Page 22:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. Green Alkanet | 2. Jack-by-the-hedge (Garlic Mustard) |
| 3. Red Dead Nettle | 4. Yellow Wood Anemone |
| 5. Snake's Head Fritillary | 6. Laburnum |
| 7. Forget-me-not | 8. Lords & Ladies (Cuckoo-pint) |

Pulford VA Lower School
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Office Manager: Mrs Alison Quick
Tel: 01525 372188
Website: www.pulfordschool.org

A church school for
a whole community



The children at Pulford School had a wonderful time taking part in our Coronation Celebration on Wednesday 3rd May. It was splendid to see the huge array of crowns made and worn throughout the day.

Rev'd David Heather presided over a ceremony during worship, in which the events of the coronation service were explained. The children didn't have coronation quiche but did have an outdoor, whole school picnic, accompanied by dancing and fun at lunchtime. Even the sunshine made an appearance! The day was rounded off with a coronation parade around the field watched by proud parents.

Our special thanks go to Mrs Ayling and the kitchen team for preparing the special lunch and to Mrs Nurden and Mrs A Quick for planning and organising the activities.

Mrs. Rees.





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On a musical note.....



What is it like to be a chorister?

When I first joined All Saints choir, it was all a bit confusing. I hadn't learned any of the music, so I was starting everything for the first time. Some of the words didn't make sense: I remember at my very first rehearsal we sang *Cantate domino* and I was very confused because I didn't know which language it was in.



Now I know that it's in Latin. I really like singing in Latin, because even if you don't know exactly what the words are, you can often work them out – you learn a lot about other languages, and how English works. I think my favourite anthem is Bob Chilcott's *Be thou my vision*. I love this because it's so beautiful – one day I really want to sing the solo. I also really enjoy Mozart's *Ave verum corpus*, which I learned during lockdown. It feels gentle but solemn, and I like the expressive Latin.

During lockdown it was extremely hard. It was when I was just beginning to feel confident in choir, and then everything stopped – we couldn't meet in church or do any of the normal things, so we recorded hymns and anthems instead. That ended up being very positive though, because I had to learn the parts well enough to be able to record them by myself – it taught me to be ready to sing on my own, how to really listen to myself and to be critical.



In rehearsals, I like the informal feeling. We chat at breaks, and ask questions about the music. This is good for the newer trebles – it can be scary to start something new, with lots of older people. But in fact, as soon as you arrive at choir you find you have at least twenty new friends. Now that I'm not one of the youngest, it feels like I have more responsibility – I can start to be a minder, helping out younger trebles who are new to the choir. At first, you hear the older trebles and think, 'One day, I'd like to be like that'. Now I feel like I'm getting to the stage when I am nearly 'like that'.

When I sang my first tiny solo, on Easter Day 2022, it felt awesome – even though it was just five words, I still remember how lovely it felt to be the only voice that people hear, just for a moment.

For anyone who might like to join All Saints Choir, I'd say that it's such a great life experience. You learn amazing music, as well as theory, you get to make lots of new friends across different age groups – and you also get paid!

Rosie Howat

Calendar of Events

4th June

Services as usual including Messy Mass All Saints 11.30am
Mothers' Union Sponsored Toddle All Saints 12.00pm
Bereavement Support Café Coffee Shop, All Saints 2.30pm – 4pm



7th June

Lunch Club North Transept, All Saints 1pm.
Tickets £5.00 available from the Coffee Shop.



8th June

Corpus Christi Holy Communion All Saints 10am, Holy Communion 8pm

16th June

Crafty Natter All Saints 1.30pm - 3.30pm



18th June

Services as usual including All Age Communion All Saints 11.30am

Music in June: Tuesday Lunchtime Concerts:

Sadly this series has been cancelled for this year.

We hope it may be possible to arrange it for another time.



20th June

Plant Sale Eggington Churchyard 10.30am – 12.30pm



Looking forwards:

1st July

Summer Fête All Saints 11am – 3pm, see pp 11, 12, 13.

9th July

Mother Cate's Farewell Service: Evensong with Music
All Saints 3pm

15th July

**An event combining a concert by All Saints' Choir Trebles
& Leighton Buzzard Young Singers performing
'The Vikings go Raiding'.**

Followed by a barbecue. All Saints 4pm





All Saints Parish Church Leighton Buzzard

SUMMER FETE

Saturday 1st July - 11am to 3pm

Fete set in Church Grounds



FREE ENTRY



FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY

STALLS - MUSIC - REFRESHMENTS - ETC



*Groups and activities,
sustaining the
Christian community of
The Ouzel Valley Team*
on ...



This year's Summer Fête will be taking place on Saturday 1st July, from 11am till 3pm. The Pulford School Maypole dancing team will be performing at around lunchtime. The organising team are obviously hoping for a sunny day. In the event of rain, the event will be moved into the Church. The event is a key part of the All Saints calendar and is a great way of reaching out to the community showing that All Saints is a vibrant and active body. In addition to this, the event also generates significant funds for the work of the Church.



This month, The Summer Fête at All Saints 1st July 2023

The Social Events Team is always looking for people to help with the fête, in all sorts of ways, such as running a stall. SET has a number of stalls which just need operating on the day. Many people have their own ideas of stalls, and these are most welcome. There is also setting-up and taking down. A board has been placed in church for those who would like to support the event.



The fête also needs prizes and donations of items that can be sold. These items include: tins or bottles for the Tombola stall; Raffle Prizes; good quality items that can be sold; unwanted jewellery. Tubs will be placed in the church during June.

Richard Parsons

Good Shepherd, Sandhills

Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh

Tel: 01525 838450

Churchwardens:

Stuart Blofeld & Katharine Reedy



**CHURCH of the
GOOD SHEPHERD**

Failure is never final

Our home group has been looking at the 'Dust and Glory' material produced by the Church of England for Lent (<https://www.chpublishing.co.uk/features/dust-and-glory>), but running a bit late. A couple of weeks ago we read the story of Elijah in 1 Kings 19 and reflected on his emotions and state of mind and how we can relate to them. This is particularly relevant at the time of writing (w/b 15th May) as it is Mental Health Week.

We noticed how Elijah showed all the signs of depression, feeling alone and wanting to die (v4). God's initial response to Elijah's low point was practical – rest and food (vv 5-7). It was only when he was properly rested and fed that he could face the journey to Mount Horeb.

There were some parallels in the journey with Moses. The Israelites were forty years in the desert. Elijah journeyed for forty days and nights (v8). God speaks to Moses on Mount Sinai, as he does to Elijah, centuries later as Mount Horeb is the same place.

When Elijah had faced the prophets of Baal in chapter 18, he experienced a spiritual high point and God had spoken through the fire. Here he is at his lowest and God isn't in the fire, earthquake or wind (vv10-12). It is in the 'still, small voice of calm' or the complete silence (another way of translating these words) that God reveals himself. Sometimes we need to give God the space to speak to us in silence.

God invites Elijah to complain to Him – twice! (v10, v14) There is an openness in the relationship (as also can be seen in the Psalms) between him and God so he feels able to pour his heart out.

God's response is to give Elijah a plan of action but also a successor in Elisha. God gives us a work to do but sometimes we need to pass on the work to others. God is into succession planning! God also says that Elijah is not alone – there are others in Israel who are faithful.

We identified with Elijah a lot, how we can feel burnt out and disappointed in our walk with God and our service for his people. We were encouraged that we can be open about our feelings with God and that we don't have to be on the spiritual highs to hear him. We were also encouraged that God hears us and prepares a future path for us, even when we feel a failure and alone. God provides companionship and others to carry on the work (like Elisha).

By Frank Reedy

St. Nicholas, Hockliffe

Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney

Tel: 01525 237633

Churchwardens:

Brian Speller: 210565; Roger Spalding: 07415 877501



Diaconia

'Diaconia, a term derived from Greek, used in the Bible, New Testament, with different meanings. Sometimes, refers to the specific kind to help any people in need. At other times, it means to serve the tables, and still others, refers to the distribution of financial resources.' – Wikipedia

I am writing this piece today finding myself exhausted, exhilarated and uplifted by the past weekend of events surrounding the coronation of King Charles III.

When the Archbishop of Canterbury opened the service at Westminster Abbey he said, "We are here to crown a king and we crown a king to serve."

Jesus came to serve. He did not come to be served. He made the ultimate sacrifice of his life that we might be saved from eternal dying, thus He served His followers for generations past and to come.

However, it is not in Christ alone, or in King Charles alone, that we have witnessed people who are willing to serve.

In the coronation procession, in the streets around it and the skies above it, more than 7,000 soldiers, sailors and aviators from across the UK and Commonwealth took part. Each of these people are in service to their countries and their communities.

In St Margaret's Church, opposite Westminster Abbey, more than 400 young people followed the service on giant screens; young people gathered together from all over the United Kingdom because of their exceptional service to their towns, villages and cities. All over the country, in hospitals, medical centres and hospices: doctors, nurses, paramedics and ancillary workers daily give of themselves in their service to their patients and their relatives, families and friends. In our communities and churches, we daily see people who are willing to put their neighbours before themselves. In organisations like Helping Hands, who help their neighbours by doing their shopping or driving them to hospital; members of our churches who quietly visit the sick or bereaved, remembering them in their prayers. All of this is truly service in action.

Over the past weekend I have spoken with many people about the coronation. Many of them spoke about how we were able to lead the world in displays of pageantry and tradition. Several of them spoke about how the spectacle made them proud to be British. In many ways I share that pride. However, I am mindful that whilst we came to crown a King to serve, all around us there are people who serve others always.

Diaconia indeed!

Roger Spalding

St. Michael & All Angels, Billington

Vicar: Rev'd Steve Marsh

Tel: 01525 838450

Churchwardens:

Sandra Brewin 373644; Julia Haviland 850380



The Coronation

Following the King's coronation celebrations in Billington commenced on Sunday morning with the service in church. Appropriate prayers were said and the national anthem sung. To end the service our organist, Carl Moulding played a piece he had composed – Coronation Postlude which drew applause from the congregation. It was a most impressive work, and we are always impressed by the wonderful music which Carl produces from our old organ.

Celebrations continued with a delicious lunch in the village hall. The Parish Council and the Village Hall committee had agreed to support this and in the best tradition a 'Coronation Committee' was formed which organized the event – decorating the hall, providing the lunch, arranging a table quiz for the adults and activities for the children.

After lunch Revd Don Brewin proposed a toast to the King with wine provided by the Friday Teas group. More than a hundred people attended and it was agreed the event was a great success. The committee are to be thanked for arranging this.



Revd. Canon Anthony Hulbert

On 18th June Canon Anthony will be preaching and presiding in Billington at the 11.15 a.m. service. Many in the area will remember Anthony and Nicola from the time when Anthony was Rector of The All Saints Combined Benefice. If anyone who knew them would like to attend the service and or join us for a cup of tea and cake on Saturday 17th June between 3.30 p.m. and 5.00 pm at March House in Gaddesden Turn, I am sure they would be very pleased to see you.

Evelyn Garner

On coronation morning Evelyn (always known as 'Ev') died at the great age of 95. She lived in the village all her life having been born in Corner Cottage and her childhood was spent in what is now part of the Thatched Cottage. Later after marrying Ken Garner they lived in Hill View Lane and had two daughters. Over the years she was involved with many activities in the village, including the Church, the Women's Institute and the Hall where she ran the 100 club for many years. She would have seen so many changes over her long life and was always keen to be involved and help others. We extend our condolences to her family. A Funeral service in Church is to be arranged.

David Thompson

St. Michael's, Eggington

Vicar: Rev'd Noel McGeeney

Tel: 01525 237633

Church Officers:

Carol Hart 384634; Paul Brown 751861



Our new lives in Eggington.

Although Easter has passed, the miraculous lesson of Easter is that through Jesus' death on the cross, we have been granted a second chance. We have permission to leave our old lives behind and focus on the new day with all its potential joy and new choices.

With this in mind, it's a perfect time for me to reflect on my first year as a member of the Eggington community and St Michael's Church – and what a wonderful year it has been.

After spending the majority of my life elsewhere, building my life and my family, it was time to reflect and a time for a change. Visiting Eggington, I knew what a wonderful place it would be to live in and, it is safe to say, it has exceeded all expectations. Such a warm and welcoming community, are the foundations for new memories for my family and being among such wonderful people who I can now call my friends.

A house is the foundation of a home, but the surroundings of the house is what really makes it a home, and here we really have it all – we are so very grateful.

Poem

Moving house after 37 years

Unveiled for us many fears

A brave step forward some might say

But we simply packed and embraced the day.

Waking up to cows and sheep it's an absolute delight

Now I can sleep more peacefully

Instead of wakeful nights.

We have truly found some wonderful friends that we feel we have now forever

So happy we made this journey, the two of us together.

St Michael's Church gave me my strength which I had pushed aside

Now I feel brave enough to talk, because in friends I can confide.

To have friends around us in Eggington is a very special thing

So lift up your hearts and hymn books and let's begin to sing.

Jackie Townsend



We look forward to seeing you at the following events:

20th June: *Plant Sale* Eggington Churchyard 10.30am – 12.30pm

23rd July: *Cream Teas* in the churchyard 3.00 - 5.00 pm.



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A most generous gift of a new bible, bringing our precious Eagle Lectern back into regular use.

Terry and Rosemary Warburton have made a most generous gift of a new bible for use at services in All Saints. After discussion with Mother Cate, they decided that the most appropriate edition would be the *New Revised Standard Version (Anglicised)*, (NRSVA), the version used in the Common Worship Lectionary of the Church of England and also for bible study in this church.

The present large bible in the sanctuary is an Authorised Version and it sits on the back of what is probably the church's most treasured possession - the 13th century wooden eagle lectern. Perhaps the oldest of its type in Britain, the lectern is of oak and was probably made for the church when it was built.



A length of chain is still attached which once secured “The Great Bible”, set up in all churches by order of Henry VIII in 1539. Clergy were directed to provide “one book of the bible of the largest volume in English, and the same set up in some convenient place within the said church that ye have care of, whereas your parishioners may most commodiously resort to the same and read it.”

Our old bible is not as old as that, but it is old; its spine is damaged and sadly its language is rarely heard in an age when more modern texts are preferred.

Terry & Rosemary say: The coronation of His Majesty King Charles III on 6th May 2023 seems an appropriate time to present a modern translation bible to All Saints, marking the beginning of a new epoch for our country and for our town.

So this new bible is offered in the hope it will take its turn to sit on the ancient lectern, to be an encouragement for it to be brought back into regular use, as it has been for much of the past 700 years, in the spirit of making bible reading accessible to all, as envisaged by Henry VIII and Lord Cromwell nearly 500 years ago.

Thank you, All Saints, for your witness to the Word in the town down the centuries. We wish for this to continue for many more years to come.

And finally, on behalf of all at All Saints, present and future, I say: Thank you, Terry and Rosemary, for this most generous gift. It will be precious for years to come; yet another Warburton contribution to the longevity of witness in the town, for posterity's sake.

Julia Dickens



Tell out my soul:

A series exploring how elements of our worship

What we do and why we do it.

This month:

The Eucharistic Prayer ...

by Rev'd Dr. Bernard Minton

Nine hundred words on the Eucharistic Prayer! What could be simpler than that?! The good news is that I can sum it up in a couple of sentences! The Eucharistic Prayer is simply what its name suggests: *Eucharistia* means 'thanksgiving' in Greek. Thus, the Eucharistic Prayer is a prayer of thanksgiving to God, which we pray because this is what Jesus told us to do at the Last Supper when, according to Scripture, He took bread, gave thanks over it, and told His disciples to 'do this in memory' of Him. Jesus' prayer at the Last Supper was a Eucharistic Prayer, and Christians have obeyed His command ever since. We 'take bread and wine and give thanks over them, according to the Lord's command'.

However, equally important is what the Eucharistic Prayer is **not**: it is **not** a contract. For quite some time, especially in western Europe, the Eucharistic Prayer was seen as a kind of Divine contract, in which God promised to be present, if we said the correct words in the correct order, with the correct rituals and gestures. That made what was in fact a prayer look and feel like a combination of legal contract and magic spell, with God summoned by a conjuror-priest.

In this view, the 'operative clause' – the crucial 'magic words' – were those of the Institution Narrative (the story of the Last Supper; the bit which begins, "In the night He was betrayed ..." in our modern versions). This was why Archbishop Cranmer cut the Catholic Eucharistic Prayer in half after this; you didn't need the rest of the prayer if you kept the 'magic words'! But – to stress the point again – the Eucharistic Prayer is a prayer, not a contract: God does not make contracts with us, only covenants. He has covenanted to be present if we, the gathered Church, ask in Jesus' Name. His presence does not depend on using the 'right words'. (The name for this asking is *epiclesis* in Greek, which means 'invocation').

So, for a Eucharistic Prayer to exist, all you need is for the Church to give thanks, take bread and wine, and ask God to inhabit those gifts through the Holy Spirit in Jesus' Name. It is worth remembering that in the first few centuries Eucharistic Prayers were extemporaneous, which means they were made up on the spot by the President who, according to St Justin (c155), gave thanks for as long as he wanted to! There are obvious risks with that: some clergy can be quite long-winded! And, indeed, not all clergy are quite as orthodox as they might be! So after a few hundred years, written prayers became the norm; the oldest of which seems to be that attributed (probably erroneously) to St Hippolytus, c215.

Over time, it has become usual for Eucharistic Prayers to include particular elements. The Institution Narrative and the Epiclesis have already been mentioned, but there are others. However, since what we are doing is asking the Father to send the Spirit to transform bread and wine into the Body and Blood of Christ, I'm not sure we need to use exactly the right words: I don't think God is as picky as we sometimes make out; which is just as well, given the people He calls to serve Him!

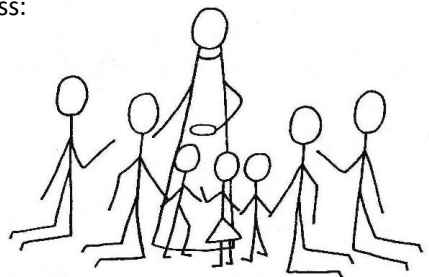
It is, though, true to say that there is a general agreement about the different things we are doing when we pray a Eucharistic Prayer, based on the various things that Jesus intended when He commanded us to "do this". These are summarised by the World Council of Churches in the Lima Document *Baptism, Eucharist, Ministry*, published in 1982, which notes that any Eucharistic Prayer always includes:

1. Thanksgiving to the Father (as already discussed), which flows from the Jewish *berakah* or table grace giving thanks to God.
2. Anamnesis of Christ. The most controversial element: the 're-remembering', or 'making present' of Jesus. What did Jesus mean by "this is My Body"? How is He present in bread and wine in answer to our prayer? There is some disagreement about the details of this (!), but according to the WCC "the Church confesses Christ's real, living and active presence" in the Eucharist. I believe that praying a Eucharistic Prayer is an act of making-present-again in which we 'Re-Member' the Last Supper, and are ourselves Re-Membered (remade) in our Great High Priest who offers Himself in the Heavenly Temple. We 'bend time' to place ourselves with Jesus who Celebrates in the past (Last Supper), present (here) and future (heaven) all at once.
3. Invocation of the Spirit on the gifts and congregation. The Spirit is love, and the Eucharist is an embodiment of love (an agape meal); the gifts and Church are both sanctified.
4. Communion of the Faithful. A necessarily collective action undertaken by the whole Church, symbolised in a shared cup and shared bread. We declare our unity in Christ with each other, our Bishop, and the departed. We are one Body in Him, and say one 'Amen'.
5. Meal of the Kingdom, recalling Jesus' feeding miracles and the Heavenly Wedding Banquet of the New Kingdom, when all will be consummated.

Or, if you prefer some Elizabethan succinctness:

*"'Twas God the Word that spake it,
He took the bread and brake it,
And what the Word did make it,
That I believe and take it!"*

Fr. Bernard



Illustrations for this series by Judith Muskett

Exploring our Churchyard

The Churchyard springs into life

After a good show of snowdrops had faded away, and the poor daffodils were subjected to hailstorms and hard frosts, we finally began to see the pale pinks, blues and yellows of spring creeping into the grass, borders and trees around All Saints Churchyard.

Did you spot any of these pictured below, and can you name them?

(Answers on page 6.)

1.



2.



3.



4.



5.



6.



7.



8.



All Saints Churchyard Tree Trail

In case you missed the article in the May edition, a Tree Trail has been developed to let you explore some of the trees of interest around our churchyard. The trail starts at the North Porch.

Either

Use the laminated Trail Map and Information Sheets that can be found at the entrance to the Spire Coffee Shop, in a document holder on the wall.

Please return the laminated sheets after you finish the trail;

Or

Scan this QR code (on the posters at the church) via your phone, to gain access to the two sheets and download them straight onto your phone.

NB: All the featured trees have a numbered wooden stake at their base, to help you locate them using the map provided.



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