

July 2018 Edition 31

From his fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. *John 1:16*

The Vicar writes ...

As I write, I am just back in the office after an inspiring 3 days in Derbyshire at the Guildford Diocesan Clergy Conference. Every three years, the clergy of the Diocese decamp to the Hayes conference centre in Swanwick, and the theme of this year's conference was Traces of Grace.

The main speakers were Professor Ellen Davis from Duke Divinity School, Rev Dr Malcolm Guite, a priest and poet, and the Rt Rev Philip North, Bishop of Burnley. We were challenged and inspired in equal measure and I hope to share some of what I heard in the coming weeks.

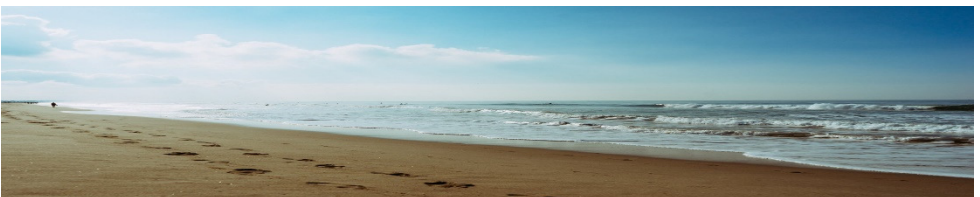
Two things to share now. The first is that each of the speakers brought different gifts and connected with us in different ways, which reminded me of the

need to recognise the variety of ways we are each called in God's service. Somehow I came away understanding that I am called to be Theresa, just as each of you is called to be the wonderful individual you were created to be, to God's glory.

The second is a quote from our closing service of Holy Communion: "Every human contact leaves a trace. Every contact with the divine leaves a trace of grace which we are called upon to share."

I wonder if, as we go into the summer holiday season, we might take that thought with us, and look for the signs of grace around us in the contacts we will all make, with those close to us and the people we have yet to meet.

Rev Theresa Ricketts



A use for your used postage stamps



Although postage stamps are less commonplace than they were, they are still in use and we are still collecting them for The Leprosy Mission.

Leprosy is a disease of poverty but can be cured. It starts by damaging the nerves on the skin's surface, resulting in a loss of sensation. Without pain, everyday activities become hazardous. Unnoticed burns and ulcers can lead to permanent disability, and because grit in the eye cannot be felt, blindness is a common consequence.

Three million people in the world are living with disability due to leprosy, and around 250,000 people are newly diagnosed each year. In 2017 489 patients in Nepal

received reconstructive surgery and 238 people in Ethiopia received training and an improved cooking stove. 1,573 patients in Bangladesh were given physiotherapy, 63 reports were published in the local media about leprosy and 1,576 people took part in leprosy orientation programmes. (Source: The Leprosy Mission.)

When you receive letters with stamps on them please remember The Leprosy Mission and recycle the stamps in the box on the left hand side at the bottom of the pigeonholes. Thank you.



Trees along St Mary's Road – A bit of history

Reading about the hornbeam tree behind the choir vestry reminded me of the time in the early 1970s when the vicar felt that we should improve the verge on our side of the road. So Rev Harvey Pentreath organised some saplings and a working party to plant them along the verge from the hornbeam to the lychgate.

We were fortunate to have Ralph Strand in our congregation bringing years of forestry experience, and so they were all properly fed and watered for many months afterwards. Today we can enjoy the results of that morning's work, although Harvey and Ralph are no longer with us.

Rod Clarke

Heritage Open Day – Saturday 15 September

St Mary's is planning to participate in the nationwide Heritage Open Days scheme again, on Saturday 15th September, 11am-5pm. We could really do with some more people to help as stewards on the day; please have a word with my father or me if you can help, even for just a few hours. A welcoming smile is the only essential qualification.

As usual we plan to have a special display, and this time we'd like to follow the suggested national theme, 'Extraordinary Women', celebrating some of the roles played by women in Worcester Park, Cuddington, Old Malden and North Cheam over the centuries, in the local community and beyond.

We hope to include roles taken by women in local hospitals and other caring institutions, as businesswomen (ranging from a postmistress and postcard publisher to a dairy farmer), and in literature and art. Women have been prominent in local education: the first head teachers of most nearby maintained schools were women, but sadly I have very few photographs of local teachers; can you help with this?

We can begin the story in the Early Iron Age, because excavations in Old Malden have uncovered a quern for grinding corn, and weaving loom weights, giving clues to women's household activities; from more recent times, recipes in *The Cuddingtonian* etc also hint at domestic work which is usually unrecorded.

The 'Extraordinary Women' theme isn't meant to celebrate only women who became famous, but also the commitment of unsung women to their communities and families; please tell me about anyone you think should be included.

At the last Heritage day we had a 'memory wall' where anyone could contribute memories, in advance or on the day, and I'd like to repeat that: so if you would like to send in your recollections – just a line or two, or something longer – about a local woman who has inspired you – perhaps a teacher, a Guider, someone who launched you on a career path, or a member of your family, I'd be delighted to include them.

David Rymill
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June burst out all over, in pictures.....



The Toddler Group has been "buzzy" making trees and bees



At the Great Big Day Out our "Decorate a Free Cup Cake" stall proved popular. We ran out after three hours!



The Worcester Park Ukulele Group entertained the Thursday Club



While in May the Women's Group held a Breakfast to celebrate the Royal Wedding



A mother was preparing pancakes for her sons, Kevin 5 and Ryan 3. The boys began to argue over who should get the first pancake.

Their mother saw the opportunity for a moral lesson. 'If Jesus were sitting here, He would say 'Let my brother have the first pancake, I can wait.' Kevin turned to his younger brother and said 'Ryan, you be Jesus.'

August Services and Events

Saturday 4	08.30	Men's Breakfast at The Queen Adelaide
Sunday 5	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion
Sunday 12	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Café Church followed by Holy Communion
Thursday 16	14.30	Thursday Club in the Cuddington Hall
Sunday 19	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion
Sunday 26	08.00	Holy Communion
	09.30	Sung Communion

**Morning Prayer is said in church every weekday morning at 9am.
All are welcome.**

Children's Groups will resume when term starts in September.

What would you like to see in The Listening Post?

Do let me know what you would like to see in The Listening Post, and please give consideration to writing something for publication. It is your newsletter and I would like it to provide the news and information you want to read.

I am usually in the hall after church on Sunday morning so do please share your ideas with me. Feedback, photographs and articles can be sent to: **Linda Charlton (Editor)**

thelisteningpost@cuddingtonparish.org.uk Text 07778 127670.

Longhand welcomed. Please hand to me or leave in the C pigeonhole beside the choir vestry door.