



The deadline for material for the next magazine is **SUNDAY JULY 22nd**

We welcome contributions from everyone who has something to share.



Dear Friends,
 General Synod meets in July from the 6th – 10th. We meet at York University, living in Student rooms and eating together in the catering establishments on campus. The York Synod has a very different feel to the London one. In London we stay in hotels, or with friends or some can travel in. Catering facilities are limited on site and though people may gather for a fringe meeting or go out in groups for a meal it is less of a social time. At York, once business, food and fringe meetings are over there is always the bar!

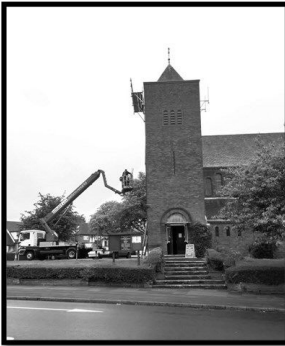
Christian Aid Week - a final update

Thank you once again to everyone who has contributed to our Christian Aid Week collection this year by donating, collecting, and helping at the count. We have now collected and counted all donations, and I am pleased to announce that we have raised a grand total of £1,510.78. After Gift Aid is added, this will increase to £1,721.03 - a wonderful achievement that will make a big difference to the work of Christian Aid in Haiti.

George Reeves

The Agenda is pretty packed with time in the chamber running from 9am to 7.15pm most days with worship interspersed. The exceptions are Saturday afternoon where we will spend time in seminars and workshops and Sunday morning when we worship together at York Minster.

TOWER ROOF REPAIRED



The condition of the tower roof had deteriorated, over time, and pieces of felt had fallen off during strong winds. A survey in November 2016 showed some damage, and the 2017 Quinquennial Report further highlighted the need for repairs. In March 2018, the PCC decided a more permanent solution for the roof was a wiser use of resources than a temporary repair. Given time and financial pressures, it was agreed that like for like repairs offered the most sensible, best value option. Ecclesiastical Steeplejacks were chosen to carry out the work at a cost of £10,788 (inc. VAT). Funding was sought from a charitable body, but we were unable to meet their requirements and used money from our own accounts. This funding will need to be replaced. In May 2018, after permission for the work was granted from the Archdeacon, the old materials were removed and replaced with new.

Bronwen Jones and Malcolm Adey (Churchwardens)

There is a lot of what we call Legislative business this time round which involves things that change the Canons of the Church and its legal procedures. Some of this is about enabling more ecumenical activity and sharing with Christians of other denominations. There are the Annual reports of the Archbishops' Council and a presentation from the Church Commissioners. Major debates include Safeguarding, Environment, Cathedrals, Evangelism and nuclear weapons but there is much more besides.

This year the Saturday afternoon will give us opportunity to explore particular issues in greater depth freed from the sometimes adversarial nature of debate. This will include some of the more sensitive and difficult issues around sexuality and the Teaching Document that is being worked on and due for publication in 2020.

I would ask you to pray for synod. It is doing very important work in many areas and particularly in those sensitive areas above mentioned. We all need to have both our listening and speaking attuned to being careful of others (this is of course true everywhere!) and to be ready to be persuasive rather than angry. All documents, for those who are interested appear on the General Synod section of the Church of England website. Be warned though. The first set, released on Friday comes to 42 documents, varying from a single sheet to over 100 pages! More will have been released on June 22nd.

Priscilla

Aspects of life at St Faith and St Laurence

Morning prayer – is normally said Monday to Thursday and Saturday at 8.15 am in the Lady Chapel. We use Common Worship Daily Prayer, all are welcome to come and join in.

Reflections A chance to meet together over a cuppa and reflect on the Gospel reading for the previous Sunday. A group meets on Mondays from 1.45-3pm Venues are listed in the Programme of the month.

Task Groups – The church has a number of task groups enabling areas of church life. These are listed in the magazine with the contact details of the chairs. If you would like to be a part of a groups please contact the relevant chair or Priscilla. All are welcome to join.

Stay and Play meets on Thursday between 9.30 and 11am in the Hall to give a chance for people with young children to meet and the children to play. All are welcome. Cost £1.50 per family.

Sunday Club meets on the first, third and fourth Sundays of each month except during the holidays. We hold an extra Sunday Club on days when there is a baptism. All are welcome to join in hearing and experiencing a Bible Story and learning together about what it means for our daily lives.

Messy Church takes place on the first Saturday of each month, most months. A chance for children and parents/ carers to have an informal time of worship, and discovering about a Bible story through song, craft, listening, cooking and so much more. Dates are published in advance and all are welcome to come along.

Planned Giving helps people make giving regular. You decide how much you can afford to give. You can join the envelope scheme weekly or monthly or pay by Standing Order or annually by cheque. Income tax payers are asked to Gift Aid their giving, so the Church can reclaim the tax on their donations at no extra cost to the donors. For details, contact Jackie Taylor.

The Parish Giving Scheme is another way that you can give at no extra cost to yourself. It reduces paperwork and increases cash flow for us. Details are available from Geoff Bennett or Priscilla.

We support **Recycling**. We have a special collection on the first Sunday of every month when we collect ALUMINIUM cans and foil which can be sold and the money raised is donated to our Mission Partners in Chile (through USPG) Local supermarkets have battery recycling facilities in this area. Pauline Sifford (427 7005).

The Sundays after Trinity

We have done with dogma and divinity,
Easter and Whitsun past,
The long, long Sundays after Trinity,
Are with us at last;
The passionless Sundays after Trinity,
Neither feast-day nor fast.

Christmas comes with plenty,
Lent spreads out its pall,
But these are five and twenty,
The longest Sundays of all;
The placid Sundays after Trinity,
Wheat-harvest, fruit-harvest, Fall.

Spring with its burst is over,
Summer has had its day,
The scented grasses and clover
Are cut, and dried into hay;
The singing-birds are silent,
And the swallows flown away.

Post pugnam pausa fiet;
Lord, we have made our choice;
In the stillness of autumn quiet,
We have heard the still, small voice.
We have sung Oh where shall Wisdom?
Thick paper, folio, Boyce.

When still the cloudlet dapples
The windless cobalt blue,
And the scent of gathered apples
Fills all the store-rooms through,
The gossamer silvers the bramble,
The lawns are gemmed with dew.

An end of tombstone Latinity,
Stir up sober mirth,
Twenty-fifth after Trinity,
Kneel with the listening earth,
Behind the Advent trumpets
They are singing Emmanuel's birth.

J. Meade Falkner

CEILING TILES



Many thanks to all who have purchased tiles and those who have gift- aided their donations. At present, purchases have slowed down and I ask those of you who still want to buy tiles, or anyone who would like to buy more, please Get in touch.

At the present the total raised is **£2205** plus **£283.13** gift- aided giving a total raised of **£2,488.13**.

I am very pleased with all those people who have been so generous with their giving, but I am looking for any more purchases either large or small.

My thanks to you all, **Len Myers**

FACTS AND FIGURES

Week Beginning	Communicants	Loose Plate £	Planned Giving £	Gift Aid £
May 20	95	113.50	219.21	11.00
May 27	74	97.61	87.00	11.50
June 3	93	108.00	327.50	10.00
June 10	29	102.33	149.20	15.00
Standing Orders			N/A	N/A
Parish Giving			N/A	N/A

Home Communion We have a team of lay people trained and able to bring Home Communion usually on a monthly basis. This is for those who are unable to come to church long term. If the situation is more temporary for example after an operation you can also receive communion, usually from Priscilla. In either case please contact Priscilla.

Traidcraft

Traidcraft sells a range of fairly traded food, cards, clothes and accessories. We use Traidcraft tea and coffee and everything we buy helps fight poverty and supports our church. You can order seasonal gifts through the church at Christmas time when catalogues will be available. Any questions, please ask Ruth Jeavons or Bronwen Jones.

'easyfundraising'

Next time you shop online, think of St Faith and St Laurence and raise free donations with 3,000+ retailers:

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/stfaithandstlaurence>

Women's Fellowship meets on the first Monday of the month from March to December. Meetings are held in the Committee Room 7.30 for 8pm. We have talks on a variety of subjects. See Programme of the Month for details.

Prayer Ministry Team

Prayer ministry is offered during the 10am Communion on Sundays. People can receive prayer for themselves or for any situation that is important to them. It takes place in the Lady Chapel during the distribution of communion.

Service with no name

This takes place on the first Thursday in the month in church at 7.30pm.

Foodbank

We collect food for the Quinton and Oldbury Foodbank. There is a box in church and food can be placed there at any time. The list of things that are needed is in church and in the hall. Food is distributed from St Boniface Church on Wednesdays and Paul and Barney's place on Fridays. Vouchers are required to receive food.

Choir and Music.

Choir Practice takes place weekly, normally on Thursdays 6-7pm. Anyone interested in singing in the choir should contact Simon Palmer, Organist & Choirmaster. (Contact details on page cover) We also like to encourage instrumentalists to perform in church, either in services or in concerts.

Call in for Coffee time together over a cuppa on a Wednesday morning from 10.30 -12.00. if needed we can arrange for someone to collect you and then take you home. Please ring Pauline Sitford (427 7005). If you are passing, do call in, or bring a friend, all are welcome.

Report of PCC Meeting of June 12th

Main points from the meeting.

- George Reeves was unanimously co-opted onto the PCC to fill one of the current vacancies.
- The PCC began to look at building an Action Plan for the church going forward. Several aspects of church life were discussed and priorities were identified. Some of these will be the basis for the action plan but will be discussed in much more detail at a later date.
- The contractor for the hall roof repairs was selected and it is hoped that the work will begin in the next couple of weeks with the aim of being completed before the end of the summer holidays so as to cause the minimum of disruption to the hall users.
- PCC offered a special thank you to Peter Stokes who raised £270.00 towards the roof fund through the sale of his booklet about the church.
- The wardens reported that work on the tower roof has now been completed.
- The vicar reported that there are several GDPR forms that have not yet been returned and will be chasing those up presently.
- Ecclesiastical Insurance Group, the insurance provides for the church, are celebrating their 60th anniversary this year. To mark this occasion, they have created a special offer – they will give money to the church each time someone signs up for one of their insurance policies. So, if you are about to renew your insurance, this could be a good way to earn money for the church. More detail will follow in the pew sheet and sign up packs and leaflets will soon be available at the back of church.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th July at 7.15pm in the Committee Room.

Bishop puts Father Brown creator up for sainthood



A renowned author may become England's first saint for 300 years after Catholic couples claimed he answered their prayers for "miracle" children.

GK Chesterton is best known for his short stories featuring Father Brown, a priest who solves crimes using his intuition and keen understanding of human nature, who was loosely based on the man who converted him to Catholicism in 1922. But now he could become England's first Roman Catholic saint since the 17th century, once an official report examining the strength of his case is published next month.

The Daily Telegraph understands that the document, commissioned by the Bishop of Northampton, will show that Catholics are praying to Chesterton and asking for intercession - his intervention in their lives.

It will also dispute claims that Chesterton held anti-Semitic views. After the report is published, the bishop will decide whether to open a "cause" with the Vatican, which begins the formal investigation into the extent of Chesterton's holiness and the sanctity of his life.

Pope Francis may look favourably on the application, having reportedly been a member of the GK Chesterton Society in his home country of Argentina. At a later stage of the canonisation process, the Vatican will look for evidence that he has performed posthumous miracles by answering prayers.

The report's findings show that infertile couples, in particular, are said to have singled out Chesterton, himself childless, to ask for miracle conceptions, said Canon John Udris, who compiled the report. "I have noticed people saying that they are praying for him," he said. "Because Frances and Gilbert [Chesterton] didn't have any children, so they are finding him as a bit of a go-to person, if for example a couple is infertile and looking to have a child."

Tony Diver

Bishop's Comment: Hanging by a Thread

One of the strongest images from Paris recently is of the four year old child being rescued from a high balcony by a man who has climbed up the outside of the building to save him from death. Leaning down, his hand pulls the neglected boy to safety.

Within hours the rescuer, an immigrant asylum seeker, is proffering that same hand to the most powerful person in France, President Macron, who gives him an award for courage. The next day I was in another part of the same city discussing 'What holds us Together?' at the annual forum of the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development. Sitting on a panel of academics, entrepreneurs and politicians before an audience of 1000 international leaders, I wondered at what point do power, vulnerability and the other combine to make the world a better place?

At the highest level the OECD report 'Opportunities for All' sets out the challenge of creating and sharing resources more fairly. Most of us however will not read even the best presented research documents, though as individuals, we will try to do good and certainly want to be thought well of by others. Directing our personal opinions and intentions through networks and local interest groups will make more impact and help us take responsibility for making a better world. Christians have extraordinary resources at our disposal for leading change for the better.

Jesus 'disarmed the powers and principalities' and set loose a movement of transformed and transforming disciples who in local community offered rescue and safety to all, with power 'made perfect in weakness'. Sometimes it may seem that our faith and the world itself are hanging precariously. The promise of God is that in Jesus he will always be with us and never let us go.

This is the kind of risky, reliable, resourceful Church of England Birmingham we are asking God to make afresh in our generation. Draw deeply on the Holy Spirit as we adventure, serve and worship together and see the wonderful deeds that the Lord will do.

+David Birmingham

The basin and the towel

These words are by Michael Card an American Christian Singer-Songwriter and poet. They remind us of Jesus' actions at the Last Supper as told by John (John 13) and encourage us to embrace a vision of serving community within the church.

And the call is to community

In an upstairs room, a parable
Is just about to come alive
And while they bicker about who's best
With a painful glance, He'll silently rise

Their Savior Servant must show them how
Through the will of the water
And the tenderness of the towel

And the call is to community
The impoverished power that sets the soul free
In humility, to take the vow
That day after day we must take up the basin and the towel

In any ordinary place
On any ordinary day
The parable can live again
When one will kneel and one will yield

Our Saviour Servant must show us how
Through the will of the water
And the tenderness of the towel

The space between ourselves sometimes
Is more than the distance between the stars
By the fragile bridge of the Servant's bow
We take up the basin and the towel

Prayer of the Month

Michel Quoist was a French Roman Catholic Priest. His book Prayers for life, published in 1954, was revolutionary and has sold at least 2.5 million copies worldwide.

The following prayer comes from the section entitled “All of life would become prayer”

This section looks at very ordinary objects and reflects on them, their use and their history to enable all sorts of prayer.

You could use this (Though maybe allowing for inflation we might be on a £50 note) or simply when holding money reflect on the many hands through which it has been, the good and ill for which it has been used and pray for all those touched by it.

Prayer before a five pound note

Lord, see this note, it frightens me.

You know its secrets, you know its history.

How heavy it is!

It scares me, for it cannot speak.

It will never tell all it hides in its creases.

It will never reveal all the struggles and efforts it represents, all the disillusionment and slighted dignity.

It is stained with sweat and blood.

It is laden with all the weight of the human toil which makes its worth.

It is heavy, heavy, Lord.

It fills me with awe, it frightens me.

For it has death on its conscience,

All the poor fellows who killed' themselves for it...

To possess it for a few hours,

To have through it a little pleasure, a little joy, a little life...

Through how many hands has it passed, Lord?

And what has it done in the course of its long silent trips?

It has offered white roses to the radiant fiancée.

It has paid for the baptismal party, and fed the growing baby.

It has provided bread for the family table.

Because of it there was laughter among the young;
and joy among the adults.

It has paid for the saving visit of the doctor,

It has bought the book that taught the youngster,

It has clothed the young girl.

Two memorable acts of worship then: poles apart yet linked in many ways, each doing unforgettable service to the occasions they served to illuminate. One perhaps rather unlikely moment caught my attention and drew the two days unexpectedly together. The prayers and tributes from representatives of local religions included offerings by members of the Jewish, Muslim Sikh and Hindu communities – thankfully quite a common occurrence these days. But what made me sit up was a contribution from a representative of the British Humanist Association. He read a little poem by Philip Larkin entitled ‘The Trees’. Here it is.

*The trees are coming into leaf
Like something almost being said;
The recent buds relax and spread,
Their greenness is a kind of grief.*

*Is it that they are born again
And we grow old? No, they die too,
Their yearly trick of looking new
Is written down in rings of grain.
Yet still the unresting castles thresh
In full grown thickness every May.
Last year is dead, they seem to say,
Begin afresh, afresh, afresh.*

This is one of Larkin’s few optimistic poems. Its message of renewal and hope chimes with both of our events. The beautiful greenery of May was everywhere in Windsor in the splendid floral decorations of the chapel, and in the trees lining the Long Walk, and symbolically in the new life of the wedding itself.

In Manchester there was less greenery, but an even stronger appropriateness in the overlaying of the dead of a year before with the expectation of new life afresh and the growth of hope for the future. There could not have been a better choice for our humanist to make.

In a final gentle irony, Larkin, agnostic for most of his days, toyed endlessly with belief and as he approached his death kept a bible by his bed. He might well, I think, have endorsed the use of these two churches as a focus for national commemoration. In conclusion, one sublime word, saved until now, links these two unforgettable days and completes their pattern, and that is love: abundantly and joyfully present and manifesting itself in so many ways. I think it is fitting to give one of my favourite poets the last word – or rather the last line. Larkin’s fine poem ‘An Arundel Tomb’ ends thus: *What will survive of us is love.* Amen to that.

Chris Price

Two days in May

Two days in May saw events of great significance in England: events in many ways strikingly different yet with much in common and with much to celebrate. Both were firmly rooted in their specific locations, yet national, and in one case global, in their outreach and significance. Each received lavish coverage on television and in the printed media, and in the centre of both were the churches and rituals of our Anglican faith.

The first, of course, was the wedding of Prince Harry and Meghan Markle, celebrated on a glorious May day in a bedecked and thronged Windsor. The centrepiece was the magnificent Chapel of St George in the grounds of the castle, a 'royal peculiar' rather than a cathedral, but looking like one, and a striking and quite perfect setting for this unique occasion. The order of service for the nuptials took the traditional Anglican wedding liturgy and decked it out in a fine blend of ancient and modern. As with most such manifestations of the established church, all was immaculate and well-ordered, yet able to accommodate the free flow of a sermon like no other from the American Episcopal Bishop Michael Curry (an Anglican indeed, but not as we know it!) and the joyful harmonies of a gospel choir as counterpoint to the glorious music of the Chapel choir, orchestras and soloists. All in all, a day to remember and memories to treasure along with the souvenir supplements enshrining some spectacular photographs.

Just a few days later, Manchester remembered, a year on from that terrible event, the 22 victims of the terrorist bombing at the Arena concert. The day, as likewise covered by the BBC, was full of memorable events; but here again the still centre of this day of remembering was a place of worship. Manchester's Cathedral is not one of the great mediaeval edifices, and is far smaller than Liverpool's monumental equivalent: it started as a parish church and only gained cathedral status in the 19th century. But it was a perfect setting for an inspiring service in honour of the dead and injured and all who were close to them, as well as a focus for the people of a great city uniting to look back in sorrow, but even more looking forward in prayer, silence and singing to what the future might bring. The sermon, by Bishop David Walker, was moving and quiet (compare Bishop Curry a week before – horses for courses!) and the photos, candles and music spoke as eloquently as did his measured words. Prayers and readings came from a wide range of people, of all faiths and none – of which more anon. All in all, another day to share, if only from the armchair, with worship entirely fit for purpose and memories to cherish for the years to come.

But it has sent the letter breaking the engagement.
It has paid for the death of a child in its mother's womb.
It has bought the liquor that made the drunkard.
It has produced the film unfit for children.
And has recorded the indecent song.
It has broken the morals of the adolescent and made of the adult a thief.
It has bought for a few hours the body of a woman.
It has paid for the weapons of the crime and for the wood of the coffin.

O Lord, I offer you this note with its joyous mysteries,
its sorrowful mysteries.

I thank you for all the life and joy it has given.

I ask your forgiveness for the harm it has done.

But above all, Lord, I offer it to you as a symbol of all the labours of men,
indestructible money, which
tomorrow will be changed into your eternal life.

Amen.

Priscilla

ECO Tips for July

Your electrical appliances

You can save around £30 a year just by remembering to turn your appliances off at the plug rather than leaving them in standby mode.

www.energysavingtrust.org.uk/home-energy-efficiency/energy-saving-quick-wins

Take your phone charger out of the socket when not in use. It uses energy even when it's not charging your phone.

Buy A-rated electrical appliances whenever you can. They may be more expensive initially but you will save on your energy bills.

The location of your fridge can make a difference in how energy efficient it is. Make sure it is out of direct sunlight and not close to the oven.

Keeping it against an outside wall will help the heat it generates escape easily, and always make sure that there is a few inches' space all around the fridge so that air can circulate.

Electrical gadgets are great, but the environmental impact of manufacturing them and disposing of them at the end of their life is high. Think before you

Breaking down barriers



Some years ago, Coventry Cathedral introduced an entrance to help with the upkeep of the building, it is returning to its old policy of free entry a bid to welcome more people. An announcement to this effect made when the Archbishop of Canterbury visited on Saturday 5th May this year. John Whitcombe, the Dean of Coventry said "We want to take down any barriers to people coming in and enjoying our extraordinary building and being caught up in the message that it represents.

We will be making the announcement just after our 12 o'clock litany, which is a prayer we say every day about breaking down barriers between people and nation, so it's going to be lovely to be able to say 'and we are taking down this barrier to people being able to come in.'" The Dean said that it feels wrong to have to pay: "I stood by our entrance and I've stood by the entrance of many cathedrals up and down the country as people look at the charge and even if it quite a modest charge it's just not in our national mind-set to pay to go into a build of this sort. I'm really confident that so many more people will come in both from the city and from across the country – people who've travelled across the world, actually, on the whole don't mind paying."

Speaking of how they will make up the loss in revenue, he said: "We have taken in a little bit short of £100,000 each year in the last few years since we have been charging people for entry so the first thing is to say is we are absolutely delighted to be working with the diocese of Coventry to make this a reality and they have helped us with the set up costs and they're also helping with the potential loss of revenue over the first 2 or 3 years. "The Cathedral will still provide the option to leave a donation on exit. The Dean also said that their motivation was mission: "As the whole diocese here have reflected and prayed about this, we've really recognised that the cathedral is one of the greatest opportunities for mission that we have together - so it's an expression of partnership."

Athazagoraphobia

It could be part of a pub quiz. 'What does *Athazagoraphobia* mean?' Well, the 'phobia' bit gives us a bit of clue -the fear of something! In fact it is the fear of being forgotten. It is not a word that slips easily off the tongue and one could be forgiven for finding the whole notion mildly amusing, but in fact most people experience varying degrees of concern about being forgotten.

At one end of the spectrum it may be that birthday card that did not come from someone special. A little further along the spectrum is that situation where you go back to visit a place you used to live or work hoping for a rapturous welcome - only to find that life has moved on and you are but a distant memory. I am sure you can think of your own examples. I do not think that I know of anyone who suffers from what I guess is the right hand end of the spectrum, which is a real fear of being totally forgotten.

I have to confess that as the years progress, I do occasionally reflect upon the notion of being totally forgotten. Like most of us, I am not famous and I will not be in any history book - the best I can hope for is ending up in some great-grand-child's family tree at school.

Can I emphasise that I am not for one moment feeling sorry for myself, but, having spent a good deal of time (professionally) in graveyards, one cannot help wondering who remembers those names on the headstones - and then of course there is the realisation that you will end up as a name on a headstone too.

In a sense the Bible does not help; the Book of Wisdom says *Our name will be forgotten in time, and no one will remember our works; our life will pass away like the traces of a cloud, and be scattered like mist that is chased by the rays of the sun and overcome by its heat. (2:4)* Ecclesiastes is no better! *The people of long ago are not remembered, nor will there be any remembrance of people yet to come by those who come after them. (1:11)*

The counter to this of course comes with the realisation that we will not be forgotten by God. *Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground unperceived by your Father. And even the hairs of your head are all counted. So do not be afraid; you are of more value than many sparrows. (Matt 10:29-30)*

In the church yard of the next village there is a stone with that famous bit of doggerel *Stop traveller, as you pass by; as you are now so once was I. As I am now so shalt thou be; prepare thy way to follow me.*

A variation of the opening line is *Remember me as you pass by. I will settle for that.*

Geoffrey Lowson

COVER STORY

This month's cover is of St. Peter's Church, Binton near Stratford-upon-Avon. It's a small village church, lacking antiquity but visited by people from all over the world. They come to see the West window (one of the four panels is pictured below) which is the memorial to Robert Falcon Scott of the Antarctic, installed in 1908 by the then vicar of Binton, who was his father-in-law. The subject is strangely secular for such a large church window, and yet the image of Captain Oates saying his last farewell before he walks off to die, is one of the most moving images I have ever seen in a church, and a perfectly Christian example of self-sacrifice.



The doomed expedition is recounted in four small scenes, realistically portrayed; the explorers bidding their families farewell; their disappointment at discovering the flag of Amundsen's rival expedition from Norway; Oates' self-sacrifice, choosing to meet death in a blizzard rather than slow the others; and the cairn erected over the tent that entombed Bowers, Wilson and Scott.

Papers from the diary of the local primary school in the year of the expedition, tell how the children fundraised to buy a husky dog for the sleds.

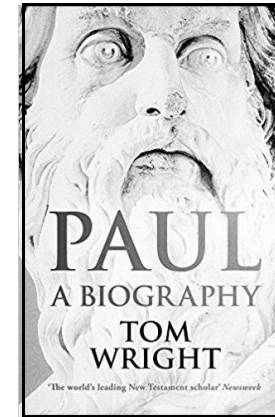
The hundreds of tourists who write with awe in the visitors book now, are fascinated by the story of Scott's last expedition, not I would think by its scientific usefulness, but because of its audacity – and its futility.

Bringing faith to life

Some summer reading!

Do you enjoy a good book? As the summer arrives, perhaps you will have the opportunity to sit in the garden with a cuppa and a story to dip into.

Here is a book recently published by one of the great biblical scholars of our age – Tom Wright. He uses imagination and scholarship to help us understand the revolutionary and radically inclusive nature of the early gatherings of Christians. He draws on the letters of St Paul – never the easiest reads – to help bring to life the way those brave first followers of Jesus made sense of what it meant to be a Christian.



Paul – a Biography is a tremendously engrossing account of the life of St Paul, gleaned from his letters and the Acts of the Apostles. Tom Wright is well known for two kinds of writing – very heavy theological tomes and more approachable bible commentaries. This is a big book, but it is written in a way that grips and makes you want to keep reading. He also has a gift of being able to help us understand the complexities of life in that time and how radical Paul's vision was for an inclusive church, where barriers of difference were broken down by faith in Jesus. With his vast understanding of Paul's theology and writings, Tom Wright helps us to imagine and appreciate the struggles and sufferings which shaped this giant of the church. The story brings Paul's ideas and concepts to life in a way that has certainly helped me to have a new appreciation of a controversial figure who has had a bad press.

Eric Wollaston

Well done Coventry!

On May 28th, Coventry City FC won promotion back to Division 1 of the Football League. As in 1987, when they won the FA Cup, the city went wild with delight. It was said that a quarter of a million people were out on the streets to welcome their team home. Coventry was awash with sky-blue. Back in 1987, the newly-hung cathedral bells, not yet formally dedicated, rang out for the first time to celebrate them winning the FA Cup.

Now, thirty one years later, Coventry is once again walking tall. The city has also been named UK Capital of Culture 2021. It deserves the honour.

I can remember visiting Coventry in 1962, when it was celebrating the golden jubilee of the consecration of their "new" cathedral. I can vividly recall my impressions on that late spring day, most of all the Graham Sutherland's huge tapestry of *Christ in Glory* and John Piper's marvellous coloured glass in the baptistery. I was both stirred and moved by that great building. It seemed to speak beyond itself to something bigger and more expansive than I think I'd ever known. Looking back, I guess it was one of my early spiritual experiences, an intimation of resurrection.

On that day, the Head Verger who was showing us 'his' cathedral, walked us up the nave towards the Graham Sutherland's tapestry. Then he turned us round to reveal the array of colour in the aisle windows hidden on the eastward journey; then drew our eyes westwards towards the Hutton glass screen, and beyond that, to the ruins. This, he said, is how Christ on the tapestry sees the world: not as lost in pain and conflict, but transfigured by the reconciliation grace brings. He drew our attention to the figure of the human being held between Christ's feet. That figure, he said, is also looking out to the world, and is seeing it as the risen Jesus sees it. This diminutive figure represents us. If we see the world in this new way, the task of reconciliation becomes possible, and this has been demonstrated in the history of Coventry Cathedral over the years.

When you go into this wonderful building, surely one of the great achievements of 20th century architecture, you are strangely stilled and excited at the same time. The Cathedral puts you in your place, like the human figure between the feet of Christ, which is a safe, restful place to be. Then it lifts your vision and stimulates you to reflect before God on who you are and who you might become. It is both moving and transformative. As the verger said, it helps you see in new ways.

Coventry is a city of paradoxes. There is something homely and familiar about its medieval streets, so Warwickshire, so quintessentially England.

SUN 15 SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 am Holy Communion *Amos 7.7-15; Ephesians 1.3-14; Mark 6.14-29*
 10.00 am Family Communion
Readings as at 8am
 6.30 pm Evensong *Psalms 66*
Job 4.1, 5.6-end; Romans 15.14-29

Mon 16	1.45 pm	Reflections	<i>143 Balden Road</i>
Tue 17	7.00 pm	Concert by Camp Hill Girls	<i>Church</i>
Wed 18	10.30 am	Call in for Coffee	<i>Committee Room</i>
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
		<i>Isaiah 10.5-7, 13-16; Matthew 11.25-27</i>	
Thu 19	9.30 am	Stay and Play	<i>Hall</i>
	6.00 pm	Choir Practice	<i>Church</i>

SUN 22 EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 am Holy Communion *Jeremiah 23.1-6; Ephesians 2.11-end; Mark 6.30-34, 53-end*
 10.00 am Family Communion
Readings as at 8am
 6.30 pm Evensong *Psalms 73.21-end*
Job 13.13-14.6; Hebrews 2.5-end

Wed 25	10.30 am	Call in for Coffee	<i>Committee Room</i>
	11.00 am	Holy Communion	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
		<i>Jeremiah 45.1-5; Matthew 20.20-28</i>	
Thu 26	9.30 am	Stay and Play	<i>Hall</i>

SUN 29 NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

8.00 am Holy Communion *2 Kings 4.42-end; Ephesians 3.14-end; John 6.1-21*
 10.00 am Family Communion
Readings as at 8am
 6.30 pm Evensong *Psalms 74.11-16*
Job 19.1-27a; Hebrews 8

PROGRAMME FOR JULY

SUN 1	FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
	8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Lamentations 3.23-33; 2 Corinthians 8.7-end; Mark 5.21-end</i>	
	10.00 am	Family Communion <i>Readings as at 8am</i>	
	6.30 pm	Evensong <i>Psalm 53</i> <i>Jeremiah 11.1-14; Romans 13.1-10</i>	
Mon 2	12.30 pm	Funeral	<i>Church</i>
	1.45 pm	Reflections	<i>143 Balden Road</i>
Wed 4	10.30 am	Call in for Coffee	<i>Committee Room</i>
	11.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Amos 5.14-15, 21-24; Matthew 8.28-end</i>	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
Thu 5	9.30 am	Stay and Play	<i>Hall</i>
	6.00 pm	Choir Practice	<i>Church</i>
Fri 6		General Synod takes place until Tuesday 10th.	
Sat 7	10.00 am	Quinborne centre Open Day	
	10.30 am	Messy Church	<i>Hall</i>
SUN 8	SIXTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY		
	8.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Ezekiel 2.1-5; 2 Corinthians 12.2-10; Mark 6.1-13</i>	
	10.00 am	Morning Praise	
	6.30 pm	Sung Eucharist <i>Readings as at 8am</i>	
Mon 9	1.45 pm	Reflections	<i>143 Balden Road</i>
	4.00 pm	RCCM Ribbon exams	<i>Church</i>
Tue 10	7.15 pm	PCC Meeting	<i>Committee Room</i>
Wed 11	10.30 am	Call in for Coffee	<i>Committee Room</i>
	11.00 am	Holy Communion <i>Hosea 10.1-3, 7-8, 12; Matthew 10.1-7</i>	<i>Lady Chapel</i>
Thu 12	9.30 am	Stay and Play	<i>Hall</i>
	6.00 pm	Choir Practice	<i>Church</i>

Yet the pre-war planners (quoting Tennyson's "the old order changeth, giving place to new") had already laid waste to Butchers' Row, what we would now regard as a priceless piece of heritage townscape. What they didn't destroy, the Luftwaffe made swift work of, on that terrible night of bombing on November 14th 1940, codenamed "Operation Moonlight Sonata". What does it do to a city to have been reduced to ashes, to be the only one in Britain whose cathedral was destroyed by enemy action?

After the war, a brave new city arose like a phoenix. Ancient and modern stood inextricably bound together in both the way the city was re-engineered, and in the experience of its citizens. So much was symbolised by the old and new cathedrals standing side by side, or rather, in these two physical expressions of one single Cathedral. With the exception of the Cathedral, the architecture of the 1950s and 60s has not fared as well as what survives of the middle ages. Perhaps Coventry was rebuilt in too much of a hurry. These days the city is not the gleaming emblem of modernity it once was. Its industries experienced a steep decline from the late 1970s, when unemployment was high and the future of its manufacturing industries looked bleak.

Yet somehow, the spirit of Coventry's citizens was not broken by this turnabout in its fortunes. Yes, they could look west to us in Birmingham and envy the seemingly unstoppable success of their near neighbour. But look at what the new Commonwealth immigrants who came to work in Coventry after the war brought to the city.

It's important that 'City of Culture' is interpreted in the widest possible way. Hull demonstrated this most successfully in 2017 and we salute that city.

Somehow, I have a hunch that the people of Coventry will be very good at sharing who and what they are, and how they have travelled together as a city across the centuries, and through the recent past into the present. I could write about how Coventry has become a symbol of international reconciliation and peace-making that has evoked the admiration of people across the world.

But most of all, it's the people who make the place. When it was announced that Coventry had won their bid to be City of Culture, I was touched to hear ordinary Coventry people speak about their city and why they loved it.

I'm sure the citizens of all five short-listed cities would have said the same of theirs. Perhaps Coventry, with its cosmopolitan and internationalist outlook, can represent the best of what they would have contributed to this celebration of all that we cherish and are proud of in the culture of these islands.

Peter Stokes