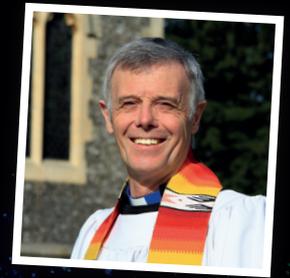




From the Vicarage

Much as I have suffered at the hands of the vagaries of Microsoft products over the years, I am nevertheless impressed that Bill Gates (founder of MS) in his later years has taken to using some of his vast fortune for philanthropic purposes. Hence he has set up a charity 'The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation'.



It did occur to me that I wonder how he would feel if those who were offered help by his charity refused to be helped. Would he be angry? Would he be sad? Incredulous? It probably depends upon his inner character. And for those who do avail themselves of the benefit of one of his charities. Is he worried that these people are consuming his money? Does he want to check that they are worthy? I do not know him personally but I would guess that he is delighted when his charities help people and I would guess that he would be open to putting more money in if the charity found so much to do that it needed more resources.

Well, you may have guessed where I am going with this. God offers us help out of the limitless resources of heaven. He sent his Son Jesus to this earth, not to leave a philosophy or good ideas but to offer us the greatest help we need. Forgiveness from a damaged life. When we refuse his help he is saddened. It is not that he is limited in the amount he can give, he is only limited by the amount we are willing to receive. He created us and loves us.

One more inadequate analogy along these lines. I know that Microsoft have done a great deal of work on artificial intelligence. What if they had created artificial intelligence that could genuinely love. It would certainly sell well. An automated Hoover that could speak with you and hoovered the house only because it genuinely cared for your wellbeing. Now there is a thought! Genuine unconditional love is in short supply in this world. But I wonder how you would respond if the Hoover (following that analogy) one day decided that it thought you were not worthy of its affection, told you so and announced that it would no longer look after your carpets. Judgement? Try to reason with it? Return it?



We read in Genesis of God putting us here on earth to look after it and to love him. We announced that we were no longer going to obey him and we have not looked after the world well.

The analogy breaks down fairly quickly (as all good analogies do) but it maybe prompts us to view our world from God's perspective. If you were God, what would you do? Now there is a scary thought. Me as God? No thank you. I am happy with the one I have got thank you.

Blessings

Revd Mike Bisset

“God’s Finger Touched Her, and she slept”

The above words are a line from an elegy by Alfred Lord Tennyson and are an extremely evocative description of the final hours of Rosa Morison who died at her desk in University College London in February 1912.

They can be seen on the brass plaque on the South Aisle wall in Holy Trinity placed to commemorate Rosa. Who was responsible for its installation? Well we can only speculate but Drs. Louisa Garrett Anderson, Flora Murray and Agnes Savill are all obvious candidates.

Rosa was born in Hammersmith in 1841, in fact only two days before the census of that year was taken, upon which she appears as an unknown child just two days old, she was not to remain unknown in the decades to come.

In 1866 she was employed as a linguist at Queens College, and it was there that she met Eleanor Grove. After a brief holiday in Germany Rosa approached the University of London where she offered her services free of charge, she was appointed Vice-Principal, and in 1883 she obtained the post of Lady Superintendent of Women Students, a position she held until her death.



The student accommodation continued to be developed under Rosa's tenure to the point where it held not only University College students but those attending the Elizabeth Garrett Anderson London School for Medicine for Women.

The neighbouring brass plaque commemorates her friend and companion Eleanor Grove. It was placed there in 1907 so probably at the behest of Rosa herself. Eleanor was a member of the Grove family her brother being Thomas Grove who resided at Watercroft, and another was Sir George Grove well known as the author of Dictionary of Music & Musicians. Eleanor was born in Clapham in 1826 and began her working life as a Governess in Germany and Austria, her professional life in many ways parallels that of Rosa and both are best remembered for identifying and developing student accommodation principally for women students in Bloomsbury. Eleanor did not enjoy good health

and was forced to retire in 1890, she died at her home in Tavistock Square in 1905 from heart failure. Today their names are remembered following the construction in 2018 of the 33-floor student block named Eleanor Rosa House in Stratford East London

What of the Penn connection? Well, between 1885 and 1912 Eleanor and Rosa, in addition to their London address resided at Swiss Cottage (now Alde House) in Church Road Penn. Regrettably little is known of their lives in Penn and following Rosa's death in 1912, Swiss Cottage together with its contents which included Rosa's Broadwood piano and many of her books were auctioned off.

Were they buried together locally? Again regrettably no. Eleanor lies in the family vault together with her mother and sisters at West Norwood and Rosa in Hammersmith cemetery close to where she was born.

In addition to their pioneering work in forwarding the cause of women's education both women had significant suffrage credentials as Rosa's obituary in The Common Cause, the suffragette newspaper was written by no less that Millicent Fawcett herself.

I am grateful to Hannah Leamy for alerting me to these two notable ladies. Hannah is the grand daughter of Edith Bristow who was in the household of Rosa & Eleanor.

Ron Saunders November 2021



Eleanor Rosa House, Stratford

Colin Powell on laptops ...



I cannot think we have ever quoted an American general in our newsletter before, but I came across this quote from Maj Gen Colin Powell who came to public attention as the US Joint Chief of Staff during the Gulf War.

He wrote ...

All children need a laptop. Not a computer, but a human laptop. Mums, Dads, Grannies and grandpas, Aunts, Uncles – someone to hold them, read to them, teach them. Loved ones who will embrace them and pass on experience, rituals and knowledge of a hundred previous generations. Loved ones who will pass to the next generation their expectations of them, their hopes, and their dreams.



St Augustine ...

So St Augustine and Colin Powell are going to get a mention on the same page. That will not happen very often.

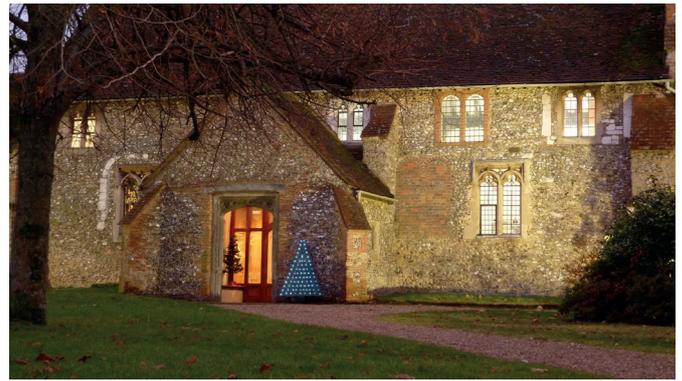
Every year on the second or third Sunday in September the Collect picks up the words of St Augustine “Our hearts are restless until they find their rest in you”. I was reading my copy of ‘Confessions’ from which that quote is taken and discovered his thoughts surrounding those words. This is from the opening of Book One of St Augustine’s autobiographical book ‘Confessions’ where he reflects on the restlessness of his heart but also of the activity of the Holy Spirit in causing that very restlessness (the translation is Sir Tobie Matthew).

“Great art thou, O Lord, and greatly to be praised; great is thy power, and infinite is thy wisdom.” And man desires to praise thee, for he is a part of thy creation; he bears his mortality about with him and carries the evidence of his sin and the proof that thou dost resist the proud. Still he desires to praise thee, this man who is only a small part of thy creation. Thou hast prompted him, that he should delight to praise thee, for thou hast made us for thyself and restless is our heart until it comes to rest in thee. Grant me, O Lord, to know and understand whether first to invoke thee or to praise thee; whether first to know thee or call upon thee. But who can invoke thee, knowing thee not? For he who knows thee not may invoke thee as another than thou art. It may be that we should invoke thee in order that we may come to know thee. But “how shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? Or how shall they believe without a preacher?” Now, “they shall praise the Lord who seek him,” for “those who seek shall find him,” and, finding him, shall praise him. I will seek thee, O Lord, and call upon thee. I call upon thee, O Lord, in my faith which thou hast given me, which thou hast inspired in me through the humanity of thy Son, and through the ministry of thy preacher”



Special events and Services over Advent and Christmas

Christingle – 4pm Sunday 12th December at St Margaret's. Christingles have become a very popular feature of Christmas, representing the light of Christ shining out over the world that he surrounds with his love.



Christmas Day – Join us at 8am at Holy Trinity or 10am at Holy Trinity or St Margaret's for a family friendly service of thanksgiving

Toddlers Carols ...

On Wednesday morning 18th December our Toddler Group enjoys their very own carol service in St Margaret's.

Lessons and Carols – 6pm on Sunday 19th at Holy Trinity. The traditional Christmas story in readings and carols.

Crib Services – Christmas Eve. 3pm at St Margaret's. Come and celebrate the birth of Jesus with us at our community nativity service. Those children who would like to participate are warmly invited to come along and choose a costume. No learning of lines involved! 4pm at Holy Trinity. An unusual array of animals come to the crib at Holy Trinity.



Midnight Mass – 11.30pm Christmas Eve-. Join us for our Midnight Communion at either Holy Trinity or St Margaret's for a more reflective and thoughtful way to start Christmas Day.

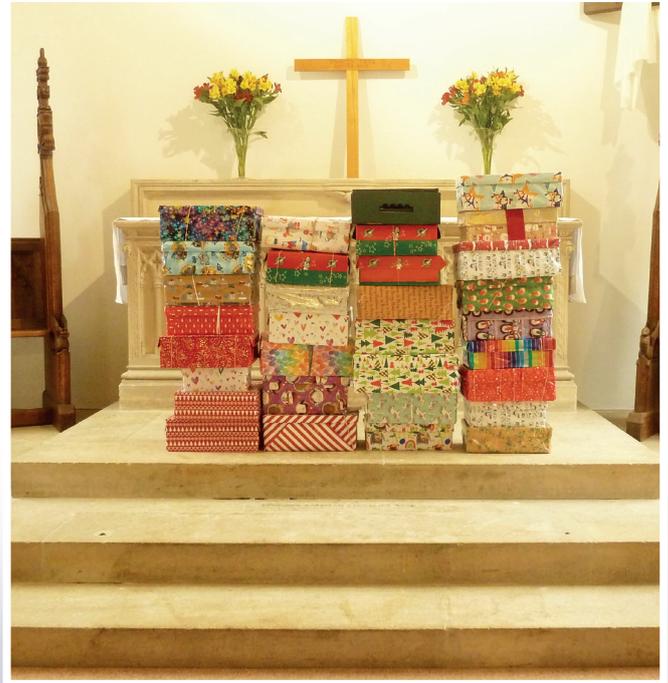


Carols on the Common – Perhaps the coldest event of the year (unless you are a football or rugby fan of course) is the Carols on the Common. Come and join us around the Christmas tree on Tylers Green Common on Monday 20th December at 7.45pm for readings and carols led by Brian Keating and the brass band.

Christmas Tree Festival – Over the weekend of 27th & 28th November we are holding our annual Christmas Tree Festival. By the time you get this newsletter it will be too late for you to enter a tree but not (hopefully) too late for you to pop in and marvel at the creativeness and inventiveness of those who have. I loved the Jones' 'Knitivity' and Michael Bayley's outside tree.



Shoebboxes – At our services on 7th November we collected shoeboxes to be added to those which will make their way to children's homes in Eastern Europe in time for Christmas. Our prayer is that they will be a blessing to those who open them and that they will express something of the love of God for them this Christmas.



Joy in the simple.

We can criticise and blame, not least when national political interventions seem to veer between being too little, too late, or too London, yet blame and criticism offer but cold comfort. Nor does the fact that worse things can happen to other people diminish the degree of our personal pain and sorrow. Instead, Christian tradition turns us to direct our gaze to the examples of the saints. Joseph and Mary find comfort where they can; the straw of the stable; the warmth of the animals; the walls and roof to shield them from the worst of the weather; crucially, they have each other. We too can look for comfort in the simplest and most ordinary things that surround us, seeing them as gifts as precious as any lovingly wrapped Christmas present. And beyond mere comfort, they find joy. Joy in an unexpected visit from some poor shepherds who have heard angels sing a strange song. But above all, joy in the birth of a baby, who for now is theirs to hold and care for.

From the Registers July 2021 to November 2021

St. Margaret's

Baptisms

Edith Cunningham	18th July
Archer Rubel	24th July
Lilian Patricia Bell	25th July
Imogen Helps	15th August
Mia Daniels	22nd August
Olivia Holland	24th October

Weddings

Rebecca Bowles & Scott McCarthy	7th August
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Funerals

Derrick Burnham	4th May
Glenis Plumridge	10th May
Janice Jose	24th June
David Dovey	12th July
Ronald Brooks	26th August
Eddie Morton	3rd September
Paul Dunstan	6th September
Helen Pachen	16th September
Peter Freeman	17th September
Robert Neville	11th October
Joan Culley	27th October

Holy Trinity

Baptisms

Daphne Browne	29th August
Augustus Parsons	17th October

Weddings

Suzy Bisset & Matthew Browne	12th June
Lucy Taylor & William Freston	26th June
Alice Simpson & William Lund	17th August
Sophia Moor & Thomas Cawthorn	4th November

Funerals

Keith Tuckey	2nd September
Doreen Thompson	10th September
Vera Thomas	8th October
Michael Sinclair	20th October

Who's Who?

Vicar

Revd Mike Bisset 816700
vicar@holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk

Associate Priests

Revd Graham Summers 814347
gandcsummers@icloud.com

Holy Trinity, Penn

Licensed Lay Minister

Mary Lee 07816 441386

Church Wardens

Paul Ricketts 814402
Oliver Heal 673188

PCC Secretary

Gail Wellings 813254

Parish Administrator

Gail Wellings 813254

Treasurer

John Scurrell 813181

Electoral Roll Officer

Hilary Forbes 816438

Parish Archivist

Miles Green 815589

Church Hall Bookings

Gail Wellings 813254

Flower Coordinator

Anna Taylor 815262

Baptism Coordinator

Mary Lee 07816 441386

Bell Tower Captain

Alison Bayley 725686

Pastoral Care Coordinator

Shirley Walsh 813594

Wedding Coordinators

Michael & Alison Bayley 725686

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Hilary Forbes 816438

Parish Office for St Margaret's and Holy Trinity

(Monday-Friday 9.00am-2.00pm)
Parish Office, Holy Trinity Church Hall,
Church Road, Penn, HP10 8NY.
Tel: 01494 813254 email:
office@holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk
www.holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk

St Margaret's, Tylers Green

Licensed Lay Minister

David Carter 813015

Churchwardens

Roy Bentham 813897
Kathryn Grudgings 07931 588199

PCC Secretary

Gail Wellings 813254

Parish Administrator

Gail Wellings 813254

Treasurer

Sue Wallace 812879

Electoral Roll Officer

Jean Stables 712138

Parish Rooms Bookings

Mary Coker 812162

Parish Rooms Treasurer

John Daniell 812117

TYGRE Club

Georgina Newton 715311

Flower Coordinator

Deborah Yeates 445286
Corrine Summers 814347

Baptism Coordinator

David Carter 813015

Toddler Group

Ali Bisset 816700

Wedding Coordinator

Corrine Summers 814347

Parish Safeguarding Officer

Emma Bryne 812611

HALL HIRE

Penn Church Hall
Gail Wellings: 813254

St Margaret's Parish Rooms
Mary Coker: 812162

Editorial content to Gail in the Office on office@holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk

Advertising to Diane Stewart on dianestewart3@icloud.com

Editorial Assistant and Advertising Pat Seddon 813268

Emma Byrne 812611

St Margaret's Distribution Roger & Christine Edwards 672021

Holy Trinity Distribution Pat Seddon 813268

Phil & Julia Prestridge 07986 701117

Marcus & Mary Lee 07816 441386

Zoe Clark 671961

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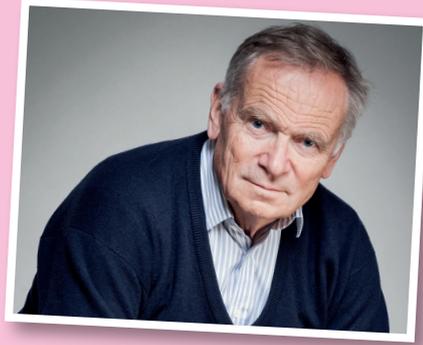
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“The Son of God” by Jeffrey Archer

He was born in a barn, his father a carpenter, and his mother a decent woman, but they were of no significance, and certainly couldn't have afforded to give the boy a private education. And yet, as a teenager, he was arguing the toss with his elders and betters in the council chambers. He never got a proper job, just roamed around the countryside, unshaven, and living off bread and water and the occasional fish, while offering his opinions to those who cared to listen. He became manager of a football team known as The Disciples, not one of them a star, in fact the twelfth man rather let the side down by accepting a transfer fee of thirty pieces of silver to play for the opposition. The authorities eventually arrested him as a rabble-rouser, but couldn't decide what to charge him with, other than the fact he claimed he was the Son of God. They strung him up with a couple of criminals, and when he finally gave up the ghost, rather assumed that would be the last they would hear of him. The Disciples were relegated at the end of the season, in fact the captain denied on more than one occasion that he'd ever been a member of His team. When He died at the age of thirty-three, there were no obituaries in the local press reporting his achievements, no glossy supplements highlighting his colourful career, no radio programmes to discuss his legacy, and no box sets recording any of his miracles. But then, He'd never relied on focus groups to advise him on current trends, or advertising gurus to spend millions promoting his brand, or spin doctors to sharpen his image, and he didn't require social media to keep his followers up to date, so you could be forgiven for assuming he'd be forgotten in a few days.



So how can one explain that over two thousand years later, Jesus Christ is still the best-known celebrity on earth? Could it just be that He was the Son of God?

Derrick Carr



After over 11 years with us here in Holy Trinity and St Margaret's Revd Derrick Carr finally retired from formal ministry among us in September. Many of us have benefitted from Derrick's wise and caring ministry and he will be missed. The good news is that he is still around and will be back from time to time to help out. Thank you Derrick.

People I like

I came across the following posted on Facebook by a friend of mine. I do not know who wrote it (certainly not my friend) but it occurred to me that it perfectly fits the life of Jesus. These were the sort of people he lived among and loved. Maybe you identify with this. Jesus loves you!

“I like people who begin by blurting out something overly personal. I like people who aren't afraid to walk around with a stain on their shirt. I like people who laugh at their own jokes. I like people who give compliments to strangers in the grocery store and make friends when they are washing their hands in the bathroom. I like people who get passionate about ideas and excited about others' success stories. I like people who live a little outside of the box, who march to the beat of their own drum, and who make it a mission to help those around them.”

WHAT'S ON?

If you are new to the community you may not know yet all that is happening in our churches. The best way is to have a look through our website (www.holytrinityandstmargarets.co.uk) but to summarise events during the week...

MONDAYS

Bell Ringing Practice at Holy Trinity 7.45-9.15pm. Ringers meet in the bell tower. Contact Alison Bayley, Bell Tower Captain (725686)

Evening Home Group. Every other week (usually) at 7.30pm in The Sanctuary. Contact Revd Mike (816700)

TUESDAYS

Coffee in the Sanctuary
Please drop in any week between 10 and midday for coffee at St Margaret's Sanctuary. Everyone welcome!

Bible Study Group every Tuesday at 43, Kings Ride, Tylers Green. Contact Corrine (814347)

Bible Study Group every Tuesday morning at various local venues. Call Annik Heal (673188)

Afternoon Home Groups
Every 1st and 3rd week, 4.00pm in the North Room. Contact Sue Wallace (812879).

WEDNESDAYS

St Margaret's Toddler Group
10-11.30am, term-time at the Parish Rooms, St Margaret's. Call Ali Bisset (816700).

Evening Home Groups
1st/3rd weeks at David Carter's home, 4 Rushmoor Ave. Call 813015 - location may vary.

THURSDAYS

Coffee follows the 10am service at Holy Trinity on the 1st Thursday.

Evening Home Group
*1st week of month at Roger and Christine Edwards' home, 7 Woodlands Drive, Beaconsfield. Call 672021

SUNDAYS

Service at 8.00am Holy Trinity

9.30am at St Margaret's with TYGRE Club

11.00am at Holy Trinity

G3 Youth Group meets every other week

