

# Parish

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# Magazine



June /July 2019

Chichester Road, Croydon

[www.stmatthew.org.uk](http://www.stmatthew.org.uk)

Registered Charity No: 1132508

## **Services at St Matthew's**

### **Sunday Morning Services**

**1st 3rd 4th and 5th Sundays**

**8.30 am Eucharist (Said)**

**10.00 am Parish Eucharist with Choir and Children's Groups  
followed by tea and coffee in the foyer**

**2nd Sunday**

**8.30 am Eucharist (Said)**

**10.30am Café All Age Service**

**Sunday Evening Services as announced**

**5.00pm Breathe**

**6.00pm Choral Evensong**

**Morning Prayer**

**Monday to Thursday 9.15 am**

**Tuesday**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday 3.30pm**



**Wednesday**

**10.00 am Holy Communion (Said)**

**Baptisms, Weddings and Banns of Marriage**

**By arrangement with the Vicar**

***St Matthew's Vision***

***'Celebrating God's love throughout the whole  
community***

***By what we believe and do'.***

Dear friend,

As I write this, it is cold and wet; at the end of May, summer seems as far away as ever! At this time I imagine many of us are turning our thoughts to summer holidays and an opportunity to get away and have a break from the normal routine, and travel to somewhere new, exotic and maybe far away.



Perhaps for you, holidays are but memories, as you are no longer able to travel, perhaps hardly even down the road, let alone to some foreign destination. Whatever our circumstances, I'm sure we are all hoping for some good weather this summer! The biggest issue that we are facing at the moment is that of climate change. I imagine most people feel relatively helpless in the face of rising sea levels and the effect of even a small increase in global temperatures on so many nations, including our own.

Although we may only be able to influence politicians around the world in small ways, for example by signing petitions, online or on paper, or writing letters, or even joining protest marches, we *can* make a difference by the choices we make. As a church we are in the process of carrying out an audit to see what we can do to reduce our energy consumption. The new hall doors and windows will go a long way to help with this, but we know there is more we need to do.

As those who are called by our Creator God to be good stewards of his creation, we have a great responsibility to care for this beautiful blue planet both in husbanding its resources and in our use of material such as plastic which, as we have all seen, can have a devastating impact on the environment. Small differences in the way we live as individuals add up to the possibility of making a large difference to the world. May the One who spoke this extraordinary and fragile planet into being, help us to be mindful of our impact on the world, so we may tread lightly to leave as gentle a footprint as possible, that the generation to come may have a secure future, and enjoy the delights of travelling to far-flung places!

With my love and prayers.

*Simon*

## **Pentecost Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

On Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> June, we are going to celebrate the feast of Pentecost with a special Café Church service of Holy Communion at 10.30am. at 6.30pm that evening, Darius will be preaching at a Deanery Service at Emmanuel Church. Do come to either or both of these special occasions as we celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit.

## **Deanery Synod 12<sup>th</sup> June**

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> June at 8.00pm the Deanery Synod will be meeting at the church of St Mary Magdalene, Canning Road. The speaker on this occasion will be Peter Graystone, who will be speaking about being confident in our faith. Do come if you can, as this promises to be an excellent event. If you need a lift, please let the office or Simon know.

## **Stewardship Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> June**

Stewardship Sunday will be on 23<sup>rd</sup> June, when there will be a presentation on the finances of the church. Please pray, first that the Lord will continue to meet all our needs out of the riches of his grace, and secondly about the amount of financial support you are able to give to the church. Do come to this special service, to see how we manage our finances.

## **Darius' Ordination**

The Revd Darius Weithers is going to be ordained to the priesthood on Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> July at 11.00am at Croydon Minster by Bishop Jonathan. Please pray for Darius as he prepares for this momentous day in his life and ministry. Darius will be presiding for the first time at our Communion services on Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> July, where our guest preacher will be Richard Parrish, the Head Teacher of Archbishop Tenison's School. There will be a bring and share lunch following the 10.00am service to celebrate Darius' ordination and also the thirtieth anniversary of Simon's ordination to the priesthood.

## Sea Sunday



Sea Sunday this year is on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> July, and we shall be supporting once again the Mission to Seafarers in our Café Service at 10.30am. All are very welcome to this special service which reminds us of our dependence on seafarers, and the dangers and difficulties they face.

# Breathe

60 minutes to slow down,  
create space to breathe  
in the mystery of God,  
and experience inner  
change.

**Sunday June 16th, 5-6pm**

ST MATTHEW'S, CHICHESTER ROAD, CR0 5NQ

## summer reflection- and a challenge

### “Live compassionately”

**Compassion definition:**” sympathetic pity and concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.”

Alfred Dubs was born in Prague and was one of 669 children, mainly Jewish, who were saved from the Nazis by an English stockbroker named Nicholas Winton. For his entire career, Lord Dubs, has been active in English political life, but now he has a new campaign. Remembering those who had compassion on him, he gained headlines last year by promoting the cause of compassion in politics. “As our nation turns in on itself,” he

said, “as the welfare state collapse after years of cuts, and as communities become ever more divided, we need an injection of compassion.”



The whole world needs an injection of compassion. Compassion is having a tender and Christlike heart for others. When we exercise compassion, we’re reflecting the personality of

God for the Bible says, “(The Lord) crowns you with love and compassion .....The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love...As a father has compassion on his children, so the Lord has compassion on those who fear Him.” (Psalm 103:4)

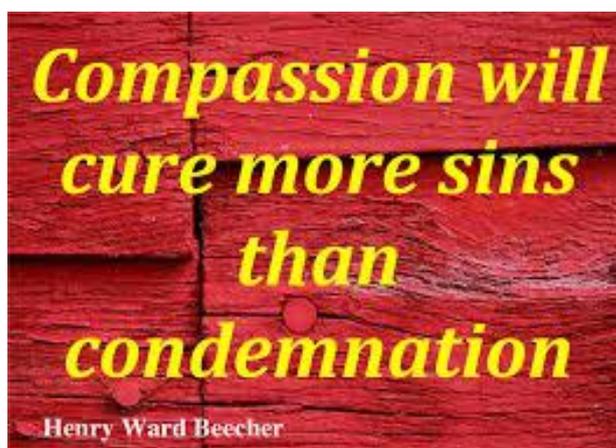
Matthew 9:36 says. “But when Jesus saw the multitudes, He was moved with compassion for them.” When Jesus met two blind men near Jericho, He “had compassion and touched their eyes.”(Matthew 20:34). When a leper dropped to his knees and begged for healing, “Jesus, moved with compassion, stretched out His hand and touched him.”(Mark 1:41).When He saw a funeral procession with a grieving mother, “He had compassion on her and said to her, “Do not weep.” (Luke 7:13) When His four thousand listeners grew faint with hunger, He said, “I have compassion on the multitude, because they have now continued with Me three days and have nothing to eat.”(Mark 8:2)

Compassion is a great attitude because it reflects the character of Jesus Christ moves our hearts to action and touches the world around us in life - changing ways. Compassion also requires prayer and maturity. It's not simply a matter of being soft- hearted and indiscriminate in the face of need. Our world is so needy we can be overwhelmed with it all- weep over every calamity, donate to every charity, and help every addict. Compassion certainly isn't a blanket burden for the world. It's being willing to respond tenderly and lovingly to the specific needs God places in our pathway and puts upon our hearts as we prayerfully follow Him. He calls some couples to adopt a lonely child, others to volunteer in their local school, others to minister at the nearby nursing home, and still others to assist at the local refugee centre or the night soup and sandwich kitchen.

Here's the question: How are you practising the compassion of Jesus in specific ways in the world around you? No one is exempt. The Bible says, "Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tender-hearted, be courteous." (1 Peter 3:8)

We aren't compassionate, of course, because of what it does for us. That's just a divine by-product. But when we live compassionately, it reflects Jesus Christ and often opens the door for the Gospel. Most of all, our compassion gives an injection of compassion to others in a way that lifts them up and that lifts up the Name of Him who said, "Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me." (Matthew 25: 40)

(From the current "Turning Point" devotional - with permission)



## Praying for Croydon

### Croydon Christian Youth workers

Networking the borough's Christian youth workers



The Church provides more activities for more young people than any other organisation in Croydon. We offer stability, reality and creativity to help young people develop new skills, appreciate belief and find self-confidence. Dedicated leaders serve as good role models, building relationships which strengthen communities.

Croydon Christian Youth workers meet and pray once a term at New Life Christian Centre, and share information to keep updated on resources and respond to issues and events.

#### Please pray:

1. With thanks for young lives encouraged and nurtured.
2. For youth leaders to be renewed in wisdom and strength and for more leaders to be raised.
3. For churches to actively publicise youth activities so parents and young people know what is going on.
4. That churches will work together effectively on new opportunities created by the reduction in other young people's activities.

Find us on **Facebook**: [facebook.com/croydonchristianyouthworkers](https://facebook.com/croydonchristianyouthworkers)

## The Persecuted Church

### Eritrea's president makes peace with everyone but his own people.

Eritrea has long been considered one of the most repressive countries in the world; a dictatorship where all independent expression is stifled and thousands of citizens (especially Christians) languish indefinitely in jails, enduring appalling conditions. Recent developments in the country—most notably the improved relations with Ethiopia—have met with great enthusiasm



by the international community. Many saw this as an indication that the plight of the Eritrean people is finally coming to an end. Tragically, however, this couldn't be further from the truth.

On 17<sup>th</sup> September 2018, 73 year-old Berhane Abrehe was out having breakfast with his son in Asmara, Eritrea's capital. He was approached by security agents and instructed to accompany them. Mr Abrehe had just published a book entitled "Eritrea My Country" in which he presented a plan on how to end Eritrea's dictatorship and prevent it happening again. Several Eritrean former officials living in exile endorsed the book. Since that date Mr Abrehe's whereabouts have been unknown. Mr Abrehe was arrested just one day after the Eritrean and Ethiopian presidents signed a peace agreement; the two countries fought a costly war from May 1998 to June 2000.

The day after Mr Abrehe's arrest marked 17 years since pro-reform officials were forcibly disappeared, independent media outlets shut down and journalists jailed incommunicado. Many are rumoured to have died in the harsh conditions. Six prominent Christian leaders who've detained for over a decade remain imprisoned.



## The Church in China by Barney Powell

There were Nestorian Christians in China from the Church of the East in Byzantium as early as 635 A.D. during the Tang Dynasty. The Church of the East had split from Rome and its monks travelled throughout Persia and China as far as Korea preaching what came to be known as the 'Luminous Religion'. The monks returned again in the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries during the Yuan (Mongol) Dynasty, but it was not until the arrival of the Jesuit Catholic fathers like the Italian polymath, Matteo Ricci, that the Christian gospel began to take root in China in the late 16<sup>th</sup> century. He brought new knowledge of astronomy, mathematics and geography and another transcendental dimension to life with his 'Religion of the Lord of Heaven'. He also sought a pragmatic accommodation with Confucianism with its rites of ancestor worship. This resulted in a dispute with other Catholic orders like the Dominicans and the eventual expulsion by the Pope of all Catholic missionaries from China. With the advent of the colonial era from around 1800, the missions from both Catholic and Protestant denominations intensified and many converts were made. Today there are conservatively estimated to be over 10 million Catholics and 40 million Protestants in the country.

Since the Communist Party is an avowedly atheistic organisation, it is very wary of foreign ideas and tends to regard Christianity as a competing ideology. Although it is officially tolerant of religious freedom, it is careful to control and monitor any movement which looks as if it might challenge its absolute authority. The country was shaken to its roots by the Taiping Rebellion – in which a failed scholar posing as the younger brother of Jesus Christ dragged China into a decade-long civil war – in the mid-19<sup>th</sup> century. In more recent times adherents of the Falun Gong movement (of spiritual meditation) were outlawed and deemed to be enemies of the people.



The present government has tightened its control over religious affairs, branding the Protestant church, in particular, as a 'cult', and ordering the closure of church meeting places. The biggest house church in Beijing, Zion, has been banned from using its rented hall after refusing to allow CCTV cameras to be installed in the building and has



resorted to holding services out of doors. To avoid the accusation of suppressing religious freedom, the authorities point to inadequate fire protection measures and 'illegal' printed materials. New regulations have increased pressure to 'sinicize' culturally and to submit to Party authority. This involves the burning of crosses and replacing them with the Chinese flag and removing sacred images seen to be 'too Western'. In the provinces, many churches have been forced to forbid foreigners from preaching and anyone under 18 from attending. State security officials continue to harass churchgoers, even visiting their workplaces to ask them to promise not to go to church. The Communist Party now forbids its members to hold religious belief. The new rules state that if they don't change after help and education from the party organisation, they should be encouraged to leave the party. In China, it seems, the State owns your soul.



## A traveller's Guide to Heaven (Part 2)

**Vaccination and Inoculation:** Injections are not needed as diseases are unknown at the destination. "God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain." (Revelation 21:4)

**Currency:** Supplies of currency may be forwarded ahead to await the passenger's arrival. Deposits should be as large as possible. "Lay up for yourselves treasure in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal." (Matthew 6:20)

**Clothing:** A complete and appropriate new wardrobe is provided for each traveller. "He hath clothed me with the garments of salvation; He hath covered me with the robes of righteousness." (Isaiah 61: 10)

**Time Changes:** Resetting of watches will not be necessary (to adjust to any day/ night schedule). "The city hath no need of the sun, neither of the moon, to shine in it ; for the glory of God did lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof.....there shall be no night there." (Revelation 21: 23, 25)

**Reservations:** Booking is now open. Apply at once. "Now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation." (1 Corinthians 6:2)

**Coronation Ceremony:** The highlight of the journey is the welcoming reception and coronation which awaits each new arrival. "There is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge , shall give me at that day; and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." (1 Timothy 4:8)



"The Plains of Heaven" by John Martin (Tate Britain)

## **It's time to become mature**

“We must try to become mature” (Hebrews 6:1)

Paul writes; “May God Himself .....who makes everything holy and whole put you together – spirit, soul and body- and keep you fit for the coming of .....Jesus Christ . The One who called you is completely dependable. If He said it, he'll do it. (1 Thessalonians 5: 23-24).

Are you growing into spiritual maturity? Before you answer read these words:

“Maturity is the ability to control your anger and settle your differences without violence or resentment. Maturity is patience; it's the willingness to pass up short-term pleasure for long-term gain. It's the ability to “sweat it out” in spite of heavy opposition or discouraging setbacks. It's the capacity to face unpleasantness or frustration without complaining or collapsing. Maturity is humility. It's being big enough to say, “I was wrong,” and when you are right, never needing to say, “I told you so.” Maturity is the ability to make a decision and follow through with it instead of exploring endless possibilities and doing nothing about any of them. Maturity means dependability, keeping your word and coming through in a crisis.

The immature are masters of alibi; they're the confused and the disorganised. Their lives are a maze of broken promises, former friends, unfinished business, and good intentions. Maturity is the art of being at peace with what you can't change, having the courage to change what you can and the wisdom to know the difference.

The Bible says, “We must try to become mature and start thinking about more than just the basic things we were taught.” So the word for you today is; it's time to become mature.



**(From the current “Word for Today”- United Christian Broadcasters)**

## Bible themed quotes- Faith

So Jesus said to them, “. I say to you, if you have **faith** as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, “Move from here to there, and it will move and nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matthew 17:20)

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “The just shall live by **faith**.” (Romans 1: 17)

For what does the Scripture say? “Abraham believed God, and it was accounted to him for righteousness.” (Romans 4:3)

“For by grace you have been saved by **faith**, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.”

Ephesians 2:8-9)

“Now **faith** is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen.” (Hebrews 11:1)

“But without **faith** it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.” (Hebrews 11:6)

“For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world – our **faith**. Who is he who overcomes the world, but he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God?” (1 John 5:4-5)



“Therefore, having been justified by **faith**, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.”(Romans 5:1 & 2)

## George Muller –Christian educationalist and founder of orphanages

**George Müller** (born **Johann Georg Ferdinand Müller**, 27 September 1805 – 10 March 1898) was a Christian evangelist and the director of the Ashley Down orphanage in Bristol, England. He cared for 10,024 orphans during his lifetime and provided educational opportunities for the orphans to the point that he was even accused by some of raising the poor above their natural station in British life. He established 117 schools which offered Christian education to more than 120,000.



In 1829, Müller offered to work with Jews in England through the London Society for Promoting Christianity Amongst the Jews. He arrived in London on March 19 of that year, but by mid-May, he fell ill and did not think that he would survive. He was sent to Teignmouth to recuperate and, while there he met Henry Craik, who became his lifelong friend. Müller returned to London in September, but after ten days started to feel unwell again. He blamed his failing health on his having been confined to his house because of his studies. He asked the Society to send him out to preach but received no reply. By the end of November he became doubtful whether the Society was the right place for him and on 12 December made the decision to leave but to wait for a month before writing. Müller returned to Exmouth in East Devon, England on 31 December for a short holiday and preached at various meetings while there.

He moved from Exmouth to Teignmouth and preached several times for Craik, which led to a number of the congregation asking him to stay and be the minister of Ebenezer Chapel in Shaldon, Devon, on a salary of £55 per annum. Müller moved to Bristol on 25 May 1832 to begin working at Bethesda Chapel. Along with Henry Craik, he continued preaching there until his death, even while devoted to his other ministries. In 1834, he founded the Scriptural Knowledge Institution for Home and Abroad, with the goal of aiding Christian schools and missionaries; distributing the Bible and Christian tracts; and providing Day-schools, Sunday-schools and Adult-schools, all upon a Scriptural foundation. By the end of February 1835, there were five Day-schools-two for boys and three for girls.<sup>1</sup> Not receiving government support and only accepting unsolicited gifts, this organisation received and disbursed £1,381,171-around £113 million in today's terms-by the time of Müller's death, primarily using the money for supporting the orphanages and distributing about 285,407 Bibles, 1,459,506 New Testaments and 244,351 other religious texts which were translated into twenty other languages The money was also used to support other "faith

missionaries" around the world, such as Hudson Taylor. The work continues to this day.

The work of Müller and his wife with orphans began in 1836 with the preparation of their own rented home at 6 Wilson Street, Bristol for the accommodation of thirty girls. Soon after, three more houses in Wilson Street were furnished, not only for girls but also for boys and younger children, eventually increasing the capacity for children who could be cared for to 130. In 1845, as growth continued, the neighbours complained about the noise and disruption to the public utilities, so Müller decided that a separate building designed to house three hundred children was necessary, and in 1849, at Ashley Down, Bristol, the new home opened. The architect commissioned to draw up the plans asked if he might do so gratuitously. By 26 May 1870, 1,722 children were being accommodated in 5 homes.

Through all this, Müller never made requests for financial support, nor did he go into debt, even though the five homes cost more than £100,000 to build. Many times, he received unsolicited food donations only hours before they were needed to feed the children, further strengthening his faith in God. Müller was in constant prayer that God touch the hearts of donors to make provisions for the orphans. For example, on one well-documented occasion, thanks were given for breakfast when all the children were sitting at the table even though there was nothing to eat in the house. As they finished praying, the baker knocked on the door with sufficient fresh bread to feed everyone, and the milkman gave them plenty of fresh milk because his cart broke down in front of the orphanage.

Müller prayed about everything and expected each prayer to be answered. One example was when one of the orphan house's boiler stopped working; Müller needed to have it fixed. This was a problem, because the boiler was bricked up and the weather was worsening with each day. So he prayed for two things; firstly that the workers he had hired would have a mind to work throughout the night, and secondly that the weather would let up. On the Tuesday before the work was due to commence, a bitter north wind still blew but in the morning, before the workmen arrived, a southerly wind began to blow and it was so mild that no fires were needed to heat the buildings. That evening, the foreman of the contracted company attended the site to see how he might speed things along, and instructed the men to report back first thing in the morning to make an early resumption of work. The team leader stated that they would prefer to work through the night. The job was done in thirty hours.

Müller died in Bristol on 10 March 1898 (aged 92)

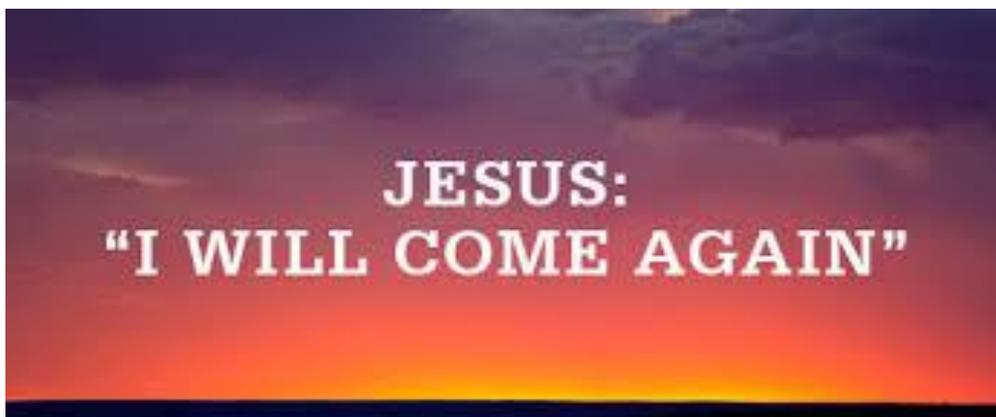
## Jesus is coming again

“Be ready...the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him.” (Matthew 24:44)

Jesus warned, “Many false prophets will rise up and deceive many.” In our generation there have been many high-profile preachers who set dates for Christ’s second coming, and the press jumped all over it. That having been said, Jesus *is* coming again! In scripture it is referenced more than 300 times.

Charles Swindoll says: “Critics have denied it. Cynics have scorned it. Scholars have ignored it. Liberal theologians have tried to explain it away (they call that “re-thinking it.”). Fanatics have perverted it. And some have sarcastically said, “Where is the promise of His coming?” (2 Peter 3:4) Jesus’ return has always been attacked, misused, and denied. But still it stands, solid as a rock, offering real hope in the midst of despair and unbelief.

You say, “What should I do while I am waiting?” First, understand what you shouldn’t do. Don’t sit around waiting for a bugle call or looking for a rapture cloud. Don’t quite your job and don’t set a date. Instead, use the time to get your act together. Live every day like it’s your last, but work like Jesus isn’t coming back for another ten years. Shake your “salt” and shine your “light” wherever you go (Matthew 5: 13- 16) Remain balanced, cheerful, pleasant, committed, and stable anticipating the day of His return. And if you’re not sure you’re ready, get your ticket immediately. As long as they’re available, they’re free. But if you’re wise you won’t wait. What good is a ticket if the event is over? Today accept Jesus as your Saviour and be ready when He comes.



(Another article from United Christian Broadcasters)

## Quotes

All these quotes are from this year's Lent "York Course" booklet.

God's love is unchangeable; He knows exactly what we are and loves us anyway. (Billy Graham, evangelist)

Repentance means you change your mind so deeply that it changes you. (Bruce Wilkinson, Christian teacher)

Of all acts of man, repentance is the most divine. The greatest of all faults is to be conscious of none. (Thomas Carlyle, philosopher and essayist)

Everyone thinks forgiveness is a lovely idea until they have something to forgive. (C S Lewis, Christian apologist)

By turning your eyes on God in meditation, your whole soul will be filled with God. Begin all your prayers in the presence of God. (Francis de Sales)

The time for action is now. It's never too late to do something. (Antoine de Saint-Exupery, French writer)

The purpose of the Gospel is to make bad men good and good men better, and to change human nature. (David Mckay)

In the end what matters is not how good we are but how good God is. Not how much we love Him but how much He loves us. And God loves us whoever we are, whatever we've done or failed to do, whatever we believe or can't. (Archbishop Desmond Tutu)

Social responsibility becomes an aspect not of Christian mission only, but also of Christian conversion. It is impossible to be truly converted to God without being thereby converted to our neighbour. (Revd Dr John Stott)

## Some encouraging news about schools in East London

In recent months there has been much media coverage about different aspects of the State Educational system eg curriculum, classroom discipline, teachers' recruitment and retention etc. I read this article (which I've edited) in a recent online edition of "Prophecy Today" and reproduce it with their permission. It is written by a member of a small Christian charity which take assemblies and RE lessons in schools in a predominantly Muslim area of East London.

"We have been astounded at the openness of schools here in Newham to hearing about Christianity and the Gospel. In December we had a primary school contact us about sending 180 children before Christmas in order to share with the children why Christians celebrate Christmas. At the end of each two-hour session (the children were split into two groups of 90), we presented every classroom a copy of "The Christmas Story" by J John and



gave every teacher a copy of the Gospel tract "Why Easter?" During both of the sessions, I clearly explained the Gospel to the children and then prayed for them. Then, a few weeks ago, we had 300 children come from three different primary schools over a two-day period to do "The Easter Experience" promoted by the

Christian organisation "Faith in Schools."

In one workshop a group made the Easter garden while two of our ladies told them about the Cross and the Resurrection of Jesus. We gave all the classes a copy of "The Easter Story" by J John and every teacher and many of the children took away the Gospel tract, "Why Easter?" at the end of each of the four hour sessions( 75 children in each) I clearly explained the Gospel to the children and then prayed for them. 98% of the children coming had never been inside a church building. The majority of the children come from families of Muslim backgrounds. I had one Muslim trainee teacher come up to me after I had prayed for the children and beg to also have a copy of the Easter Story by J John that I had given to every class. Last week I had another primary school "begging" me to allow them to bring their children to hear the stories about Jesus. It is quite obvious that the Lord, in His timing, is at work across the UK amongst the children and planting a hunger within their teachers to find out more about Christianity and this Jesus whom we worship."

## A Curator of Words by Barney Powell

*'The only end of writing is to enable the readers better to enjoy life or better to endure it.'* Samuel Johnson

It has never come easily,  
This lucid expression  
Of perception and sensation.  
Though I've eaten several dictionaries  
In French and German,  
Spanish and Chinese,  
I blunt against the given meanings  
Lifted in my mother tongue  
From C.O.D. and Everyman's Thesaurus.

Somehow the words themselves  
Never quite fit the thing itself  
Or the feeling. It's not the sounds  
Or even the uneven spellings –  
Hence G. Bernard Shaw's bequest to  
Anyone who could effectively reform  
Perverse orthography still lies unclaimed  
And Einstein couldn't quite explain his Relativity,  
But he could play it on the violin.

Perhaps I lack the poet's passion  
For the verve, the vital colour of such saying.  
Shelley has it in his great *Defence of Poetry*  
As the 'expression of imagination' where the  
Human's like a harp touched by the changing winds  
To sound out not just melody, but harmony,  
As reason and imagination vie to draw  
The sting from conflict and we thus become  
Those 'unacknowledged legislators of the world.'

## So true

A man in a hot air balloon realized he was lost. He reduced altitude and spotted a woman below. He descended a bit more and shouted, "Excuse me, can you help me? I promised a friend I would meet him an hour ago, but I don't know where I am?"



The woman below replied, "You're in a hot air balloon hovering approximately 30 feet above the ground. You're between 59 and 60 degrees north latitude and between 107 and 108 degrees longitude."

"You must be an engineer," said the balloonist

"I am" replied the woman, "How did you know?"

"Well", answered the balloonist, "everything you told me is technically correct, but I've no idea what to make of your information, and the fact is I'm still lost. Frankly, you've not been much help at all. If anything, you've delayed my trip.

The woman below responded, "You must be a politician."

"I am," replied the balloonist, but how did you know?"

"Well" said the woman, "you don't know where you are or where you're going. You have risen to where you are due to a large quantity of hot air. You made a promise, which you've no idea how to keep, and you expect people beneath you to solve your problems. The fact is you are in exactly the same position you were in before we met, but now, somehow it's fault.

Anagram of the Day:

The Houses of Parliament =

Loonies far up the Thames

## Sentences actually typed by medical secretaries in NHS Glasgow

1. The patient has no previous history of suicides.
2. Patient has left her white blood cells at another hospital.
3. Patient's medical history has been remarkably insignificant with only a 40 pound weight gain in the past three days.
4. Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for a year.
5. On the second day the knee was better and on the third day it disappeared.
6. The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.
7. The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993.
8. Discharge status; alive, but without my permission.
9. Healthy appearing decrepit 69 year-old male, mentally alert, but forgetful.
10. Patient had waffles for breakfast and anorexia for lunch.
11. She is numb from her toes down.
12. While in ER, she was examined, X-rated and sent home.
13. The skin was moist and dry.
14. Occasional, constant, infrequent headaches.
15. Patient was alert and unresponsive.
16. Rectal examination revealed a normal size thyroid.
17. She stated that she had been constipated for most of her life until she got a divorce.
18. I saw your patient today, who is still under our care for physical therapy.
19. The lab test indicated abnormal liver function.
20. Skin: somewhat pale but present.
21. The pelvic exam will be done later on the floor.
22. Large brown stool ambulating in the hall.
23. Patient has two teenage children but no other abnormalities.
24. When she fainted, her eyes rolled around the room.
25. Patient was seen in consultation by Dr Smith, who felt that we should sit on the abdomen and I agree.
26. She slipped on the ice and apparently her legs went in separate directions in early December.

## The confession

Hi Bob, this is Alan next door. I have a confession to make. I've been riddled with guilt these past few months and have been trying to pluck up the courage to tell you to your face, but I am at least now telling you in text as I can't live with myself a moment longer without you knowing.

The truth is I've been sharing your wife, day and night when you're not around. In fact, probably more than you. The temptation was just too much. I can no longer live with the guilt and I hope you will accept my sincerest apologies and forgive me. It won't happen again.

Please suggest a fee for usage, and I'll pay you.                      Regards,    Alan

## THE ACTIONS

Bob, feeling insulted and betrayed, grabbed his gun and shot his neighbour dead. He returned home where he poured himself a stiff drink and sat down on the sofa. He took out his phone where he noticed an unread subsequent message from his neighbour.

## THE SECOND MESSAGE

Hi Bob, This is Alan next door again.

Sorry about the typo on my last text. I expect you figured it out anyway, that you noticed the darned Autocorrect changed "Wi Fi" to "Wife." Technology, hey?    Regards Alan

## A message from a banker

A very useful tip when withdrawing funds from an ATM (Automated Teller Machine). Press CANCEL button twice before inserting your card. If anyone has set up the keypad to steal your PIN code, this will cancel the set up. Please make it a habit and part of every transaction that you make. Please share this with others.



## The Parish Church of St Matthew, Croydon

(a member of Churches Together in Addiscombe)

<b>Church Address</b>	Chichester Road Croydon CR0 5NQ	8681 3147
<b>Parish Office Email Address</b>	churchadmin@stmatthew.org.uk	
<b>Website</b>	www.stmatthew.org.uk	
<b>Parish Administrator</b>	Terry Mitchell	8681 3147
<b>Hall Bookings</b>	Contact Parish Administrator	
<b>Vicar</b>	Revd Simon Foster revsimon@stmatthew.org.uk	8688 5055
<b>Curate</b>	Revd Darius Weithers darius.weithers@googlemail.com	8686 1095
<b>Reader</b>	Paul Parmenter Alison Radford	8689 5874
<b>Director of Music &amp; Choir</b>	Michael Strange	
<b>Southwark Pastoral</b>	Carolyn Tweed	
<b>Auxiliaries</b>	Sue Collins	
<b>Churchwardens</b>	Stephen Collingwood Rohini Abhayaratne	8686 2815
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	David Williams	8768 3599
<b>Treasurer &amp; Gift Aid Recorder</b>	Terry Mitchell	
<b>Sacristan</b>	Gillian Bridger	
<b>Assistant Sacristan</b>	Jerry Savage	
<b>Electoral Roll Officer</b>	David Williams	
<b>Magazine Editor</b>	Steve Tucker stephen.tucker123@btinternet.com	8681 6872

### Parish Committees and Organisations

<b>Young Church (Sunday 10am)</b>	Judith Spencer-Gregson	8688 6640
<b>Fundraising Team</b>	Jane Passfield	
<b>Fellowship Team</b>	Lucasta Grayson	
<b>Communications Team</b>	Revd Simon Foster	
<b>Fabric Team</b>	Stephen Collingwood	
<b>Finance Team</b>	Richard Tweed	
<b>Pastoral Team</b>	Revd Simon Foster	
<b>Circle Dance</b>	Sally Ditzel	

07568338204

### Youth Groups and Clubs

<b>Rainbow Guides (Wednesday 6.10-7.30)</b>	Zoë Sheehan	07855 779458
<b>Brownies (Wednesday 6.30-8.00pm)</b>	Laura Easton	
<b>Ten O'Clock Club (Tuesday 10-12noon)</b>		
<b>Cubs (Tuesday 7-8.30pm)</b>	Simon Hamilton	07730586252
<b>Scouts (Tuesday 7.30-9.00pm)</b>	Michael Smaldon	07949566023
<b>Guides (Wednesday 6.45-8.30pm)</b>	Zoë Sheehan	07855779458
<b>Beavers (Friday 6-7.15pm)</b>	Tracey Hague	07528812877

**For details of other activities taking place at church during the week that include Pilates, Bach Choir, Philharmonic Choir, Breathe Easy, Children's Ballet, Children's Drama and U3A Groups. Please contact the organisers direct. Details from the Parish Office which is usually open Monday to Friday 9.30am -12.30pm.**