

Parish

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Magazine



August/ September 2019

Chichester Road, Croydon

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 (Not August or September)

10.00am Matins (11th August)

Sunday Evening Service as announced

5.00pm Breathe (August 18th)

Morning Prayer

Monday to Thursday 9.15 am

Tuesday

2nd Tuesday 3.30pm

Next Meeting 10th September



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,

I met a friend of mine the other day; her daughter married some months ago and she, like us, is now waiting to be a grandparent! Her daughter and her husband have said they do not want to bring children into this world, given the state that it's in - their main concern being climate change. Although at one level, the world has always been in crisis, there can be no doubt that global warming is a) happening and b) an existential threat to life on earth.



With record-breaking summer temperatures across Europe and billions of tons of water entering our oceans from the melting of polar ice caps, it appears that reduction in greenhouse gases will no longer be enough to reverse this trend. It seems that billions of tons of CO₂ will have to be removed from the atmosphere. As far as I am aware, no one has figured out how that can be done! Experts are saying that the pace of change is increasing. If this is true, then every single one of us has a responsibility to do what we can to minimise our own carbon footprint. The choices we make need to be influenced by an awareness of the impact of those choices. Today our awareness extends across the globe, so we can no longer claim ignorance of the reality of the impact of climate change upon, for example, the people of the Maldives.

As Christians we have a unique perspective on planet earth - that it is ultimately held in God's almighty hands. He loves this world that he has made, and whenever tragedy or disaster strikes, these are never as a result of his desire to smite us or an expression of anger; they are rather to be seen as a means to drive us into his arms, by reminding us of the frailty of our existence and also that when we act selfishly there are consequences which are unavoidable.

We need to remember that our own existence, and indeed the life of our fragile planet, is totally dependent on the grace and mercy of the Lord. We have just a limited time here before we are brought into his presence to give an account of how we have lived. Our only hope is that the love which spoke us into being will speak peace into our hearts. May God grant us the assurance that, even though we have been selfish and allowed this world to be plundered for our own short term gain, his love has and will overcome all our sin.

It seems to me extremely sad that there are people in the younger generation who have given up hope for a future life for the generations to

come. Our faith will not allow us to stop hoping, not that the human race will find a way of preventing catastrophic global warming, but that God's love will never fail and he has an eternal purpose for all people in a newly re-created world of beauty and perfection.

With my love and prayers.

Simon

HOME/BIBLE STUDY GROUPS

Our Home/Bible Study Groups will start again at the beginning of September. You are very welcome to join a group. They meet weekly on Thursdays at 10.00am at 48 Engadine Close, Saturdays at 10.00am at church and also on various evenings at the home of David and Jan Williams, 2A Wisborough Road, South Croydon at 8.00pm. Please ask Simon for further details.

LICENSING AT ST MATTHEW'S

On Sunday 8th September at our 10.00am Sung Eucharist Bishop Jonathan will license Revd Linda Fox as our new Assistant Priest, as well as Assistant Area Dean for Croydon Central. This will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch in the hall to welcome Linda. Please pray for Linda in her ministry among us and in the wider deanery.

DEANERY SYNOD

The next meeting of the Deanery Synod will be on Wednesday 10th September at 8.00pm at St Augustine's Church, South Croydon. There will be a presentation from Aike Kennett-Brown about the church's work with children and young people - a vital subject for us all. You are very welcome to attend.

CROYDON AREA LAY CONFERENCE

You are warmly invited to attend the Croydon Area Lay Conference at St Bede's School in Redhill on Saturday 14th September from 9.30am to 4.00pm. The keynote speakers are Bishop Christopher and Paula Gooder who is a well-known theologian, author and speaker. This promises to be an excellent day. Full details from the church office.



The next Messy Church events will be on Tuesdays 10th September and 8th October at 3.30pm. Please uphold Messy Church in your prayers as well as by helping on the day if you would like to.

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ST MATTHEW'S PATRONAL FESTIVAL AND LUNCH

Please join us as we celebrate our Patronal Festival at 10.00am on Sunday 22nd September. There will be a roast Sunday lunch afterwards. Tickets are available from the church office, £12.00 for adults, £6 for children.



HARVEST FESTIVAL

On Sunday 13th October at 10.30am we will be having another Café Eucharist to celebrate our Harvest Festival. After the service there will be a bring and buy cake sale to raise funds for our Toy Service. This will be followed by a Bring and Share lunch in the hall. Do come and bring a friend.

Breathe

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

Sunday August 18th, 5 - 6 pm

ST MATTHEW'S, CHICHESTER ROAD, CR0 5NQ

Patronal Festival

Join us for our annual
Patronal Festival Eucharist
Service

at 10.00am

Followed by the
Patronal Festival Lunch at
12noon

Tickets for the lunch
Adults £12, Children £6

Sunday 22nd September

St Matthew's Parish Church
Chichester Road, Croydon, CR0 5NQ

A summer reflection “Occupied with gladness”

“He seldom reflects on the days of his life, because God keeps him occupied with gladness of heart.” (Ecclesiastes 5:18-20)

This reflection (which I’ve edited) is from the current bi-monthly edition of “Every Day with Jesus” where the writer, Selwyn Hughes, is looking at different aspects of the Old Testament book of Ecclesiastes, written by King Solomon with his observations on the vanity of human life.

Solomon gives us the benefit of his conclusions after looking carefully at the way things are on this earth. He sets out, in these verses, to focus our minds on three things that would make an excellent three- point sermon. In my Bible school days, I was told that every good sermon should include three points and a poem! Summarising Solomon’s message, this is what he tells us.

First, reject the idea that happiness lies in the possession of material things, and refuse to make money just for the sake of it. Take life as it comes, laugh a little bit more and try to find pleasure in the simple things.

Second, enjoy your work. It will not meet the deepest needs of your soul but it is good to be engaged in a task, whatever that task may be.

Third, regard everything that God has given you as a gift, rather than as something you have earned. Those who say, “I made so much money this year,” forget that if God had not given them the health and strength to work, they would never have earned the money. A grateful spirit is a characteristic of a Christian.

How blessed are those who, putting God first, will find that He keeps our hearts “occupied with gladness.” What a beautiful phrase Solomon chooses to describe the condition of those whose hearts are set on God. How wonderful to have a heart that is “occupied with gladness.” I tell you that all the riches in the world, all the honours, all the accolades, all the applause, all the achievements, are as nothing compared to the joy of having one’s heart occupied with the gladness that comes from a relationship with the God who made us.



Praying for Croydon

St Mildred's Drop-in

For the benefit of our guests.

Each Sunday afternoon we provide comfort, support and nourishment for 50-60 homeless and former homeless people. In the coldest weather this rises to 80 plus. We offer simple hot food: pasta, cheese on toast, soup, sandwiches, etc,



and hot drinks, fruit and cakes. We have shower facilities, DVDs, newspapers, art table, board games, a monthly barber and occasionally a musician.

Our volunteer staff members are significantly supported by Our Lady's Church, among others, without whose help we could not continue. Several former guests are now volunteers. We manage financially through internal and other sporadic benefactors, friends and neighbours. Offers of help and donations of clothing and toiletries, and funding (towards food, new underwear and second hand jeans/footwear) are always appreciated.

Please pray for the wellbeing of our guests and for the volunteers who give so freely of themselves. Many of our guests are from abroad with little or no support for them. We hope our indigenous guests will move into housing and begin to rebuild their lives. Almost all are estranged from family.



The Persecuted Church for our prayers

I normally incorporate topics from a few countries where persecution has been particularly savage but, for a change, I wish to bring a different perspective updating you with some positive and encouraging news of how our prayers and finances make a difference to our persecuted brothers and sisters. The following items are taken from the current bi-monthly “Barnabas Fund” magazine.

In several previous issues I have highlighted the plight of Aasia Bibi, the Pakistan Christian mother of five who angered Muslim co-workers in June 2009 by drinking water from a shared cup when she fetched them a bucket of water as they picked crops together on a sweltering day in fields outside her village. The Muslim women considered that her action made the water “unclean.” An argument ensued and Aasia Bibi was later accused of “blasphemy” for which she was subsequently tried, found guilty and imprisoned in solitary confinement for nine years. You may have heard through the media that Pakistan’s Supreme Court acquitted her of “blasphemy” charges in October 2018 and she has now resettled with her family to a secure location in Canada.



Relief for poor Christian families in the bitterly cold Armenian winter

Shirak is one of the poorest regions of Armenia with 46% living in poverty and an unemployment rate of 64%. Thousands live in temporary shelters without basic amenities. BF helped a local church provide winter relief for extra vulnerable Christian families, such as 86-year-old Lida, who is deaf and lives with her daughter Gayane, 64, who has been blind since birth. 80 families received a fuel allowance as the temperature can drop to -30C.



Gayane expressed her gratitude for the help, remembering how she had been diagnosed with cancer in 2012 and broke her leg in 2016, which the doctors refused to treat. “God cured me from cancer, restored my broken bones and did not leave me alone. Thank you to those who are compassionate towards our needs.”

Goats multiply and sustain South Sudanese refugees

Christians from South Sudan who fled from violence and hunger face the challenge of self-sufficiency in refugee Camp Rhino in Uganda. With no employment comes no income. Peace in their homeland is uncertain, so for many returning is out of the question. B F is supporting a livelihood programme among refugees aimed at providing sustainability for 2, 4000 Christians from 35 congregations in the vast camp. One female goat is given to a refugee who must give away its first kid to someone who has none. On average goats produce one to three kids twice a year.

Pastor Scopas said, "May God bless Barnabas Fund. Our children will have meat and milk. This will contribute to eliminating malnutrition among the children and breast feeding mothers. It is amazing that many of our Christians that have lost all their animals in South Sudan have some animals to graze.

Be bold and courageous

I read this article in a recent copy of "Turning Point" devotional.

"Now when the religious leaders saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated and untrained men, they marvelled. And they realised that they had been with Jesus. (Acts 4:13)"

"Open Doors", a ministry to the persecuted Church worldwide, says that on average *every month* 255 Christians are killed, 104 are abducted, 180 Christian women are raped, harassed, or forced into marriage, 60 churches are attacked and 160 Christians are imprisoned without trial.

How is it that those who persecute Christians know whom to target? It's because the Christians are living lives that testify to their faith in Jesus Christ. They are not afraid of persecution. Instead, they manifest courage and boldness in their walk with the Lord. When they are persecuted, they do what Jesus did: "He committed Himself to Him who judges righteously." (1 Peter 2:23) Peter and John, in first century Jerusalem, did the same thing. When persecuted by the religious leaders, they stood firm. It was their boldness and courage that caused the leaders to "marvel" and recognise their connection to Jesus. **In faith and practice, always imitate Jesus- especially when your faith is opposed by others.**

Quotes

A real Christian is not only a good and well intentioned person but a man or woman for whom Jesus Christ is ultimately decisive; for whom Jesus- not Caesar, not another god, not money, sex, power – is Lord. (Hans Kung)

Being Christian means...being people in whom His (Jesus') life and character and power are manifest and energised....Christian experience is not so much a matter of imitating a leaderas accepting and receiving a new quality of life – a life infinitely more profound and dynamic and meaningful than human life without Christ. (Harry Williams)

The true measure of God's love is that He loves without measure. (Anon)

To get the best use out of the Bible for daily lifeGive it the best and the freshest, not the most tired and dull, hour of the day. (M S Kimber)

If we see only the problems, we will be defeated; but if we see the possibilities in the problems, we can have victory. (W Wiersbe)

I believe there is no one deeper, more sympathetic and more perfect than Jesus...not only is there no one else like him, but there could never be anyone like him. (Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Russian novelist)

When asked what would Jesus do (?), remind yourself that freaking out and overturning tables is a viable option. (Seen on a fridge magnet)

I believe that Jesus belongs not only to Christianity but to the entire world, to all races and people. (Mahatma Gandhi)

I believe in the resurrection because I have seen it and experienced it in my own life. It is the death of the old self and the rebirth of the new self which is at the heart of the Christian drama. (Rev Dr Giles Fraser)

A life spent in the service of God and in communion with Him is the most comfortable and pleasant life that anyone can live in this pleasant world.

(Last words of Matthew Henry, 19th Century Bible commentator)

Bible- themed verses Comfort

The Lord Himself goes before you and will be with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.
(Deuteronomy 31:8)

Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid: do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. (Joshua 1: 9)

The Lord is a refuge for the oppressed, a stronghold in times of trouble.
(Psalm 9: 9)

Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff, they comfort me. (Psalm 23:4)

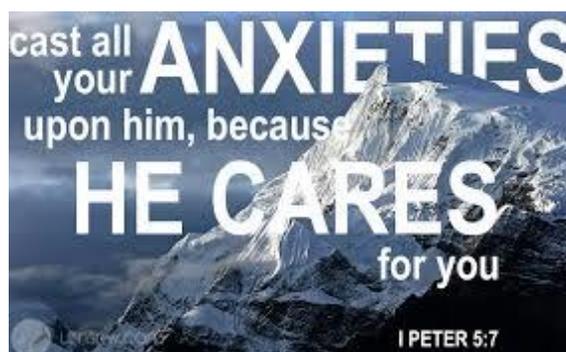
God is our refuge and strength an ever present help in trouble. (Psalm 46:1)

The Lord is my light and my salvation- whom shall I fear? The Lord is the stronghold of my life- of whom shall I be afraid? (Psalm 27:1)

May your unfailing love be my comfort, according to your promise to your servant. (Psalm 119: 76)

Give me a sign of your goodness that my enemies may see it and be put to shame, for you, Lord, have helped me and comforted me. (Psalm 86: 17)

Blessed are those that mourn for they shall be comforted. (Matthew 5:4)



Try a focused act of kindness every day

I was recently rereading a couple of chapters from a book (“Different; living the holy Life” by Simon Ponsonby) when the above section struck me very forcefully; a challenge for us?

Let us try being kind with our words

The character Oddball in the classic old movie, *Kelly’s Heroes*, says to someone who has just spoken harshly, “Why don’t you say something righteous and beautiful for a change?” Ask God to give you something kind, encouraging, up-building, life-giving to say to everyone you meet each day. Too many people go their whole week seeing nothing but frowns and hearing nothing but put-downs.

Let us try being kind in our actions

Do a kind act for someone each day, not to gain your Brownie Badge for helping an old person across the road, but to make someone’s life flourish for a moment.

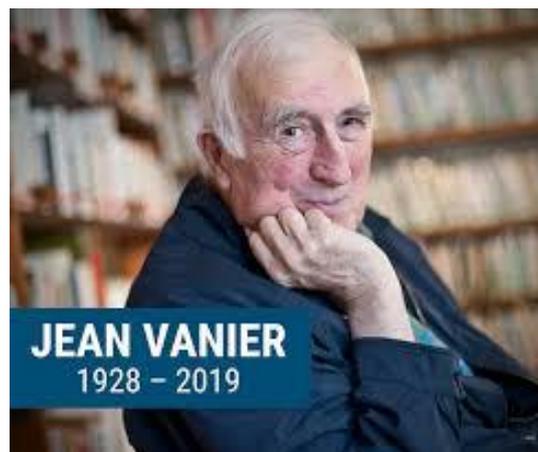
Try to be kind in your prayers

I am so conscious my prayers are selfish. The weight of them are for me and my needs, or for things that directly impact on me. A while ago at a conference, a stranger came and asked me to pray for his girlfriend. I had just finished preaching. I felt exhausted and I said brusquely, “No, I can’t promise to.” He looked disappointed but handed me a card; it was about a girl, his girlfriend, who had a rare bone cancer and was off to hospital for three months, for bone marrow transfusions and chemotherapy. Obviously, I immediately felt very small, and agreed to pray, and did so for some time, but tragically this girl did not recover. Let us be quick to pray for others- not wait to be asked, not refuse a request but offer and pray.

Let us be kind in sharing the Gospel

This is the greatest kindness- the greatest gift we have to share. The greatest unkindness is to keep it to yourself. Let us hold out the words to eternal life.

Some readers may be familiar with this man who died earlier this year. I first heard of this amazing individual over 40 years ago and subsequently read one of his books. Here, I've included a summary of his life and then his "10 basic principles."



Jean Vanier, who has died of cancer aged 90, was the founder of L'Arche communities for adults with learning disabilities, living alongside those without them. He once said: "I had no plan, I just met people and people with disabilities awoke my heart." In August 1964, having giving up his job teaching philosophy at the University of Toronto, he bought a small, rundown house without plumbing or electricity in the village of Trosly-Breuil, north of Paris, and invited two men with learning disabilities – Raphaël Simi and Philippe Seux – to share it with him. Both had been living in an asylum and were without family.



The initiative was prompted by Vanier's visits to the long-stay hospitals that housed many people with learning disabilities at the time. "Huge concrete walls, 80 men living in dormitories and no work. I was struck by the screams and atmosphere of sadness," he said. Any expansion was far from his thoughts: "I had no idea of starting a movement or establishing communities outside Trosly, even less outside

France. At one moment I even said we should stay the size of one carload – so if no one came to help me I could at least continue to travel by bringing everyone in the car." Today L'Arche (the ark) has 150 communities, in 38 countries including 12 in the UK, supporting 3,500 people with learning disabilities, with day services as well as residential homes. Most of the communities are small and residents, such as Carol Bell, often stay for decades.

Vanier wrote 30 books on spirituality and community, including *Community and Growth* (1979), *Becoming Human* (1998), *Befriending the Stranger* (2005) and *Life's Great Questions* (2015). In 2015 he was awarded the £1.1m Templeton prize, for making "an exceptional contribution to affirming life's spiritual dimension". He was asked how L'Arche communities had

managed to avoid the sort of scandal that had closed Winterbourne View, a private hospital in South Gloucestershire for 26 people with learning disabilities, where six staff were jailed for “cruel, callous and degrading” abuse of patients. He cited systems of control, good professionals, government



evaluations and, above all, avoidance of becoming a closed organisation: “We are not a closed group, people go out into the village and the village comes to us,” he said. Sheila, emeritus professor of psychiatry at St George’s, University of London, whose son Nigel has a learning disability, believes the “transformative” L’Arche model of small homes has endured because of its emphasis on relationships and continuity.” Many of the assistants stay for years in the homes and there’s a sense of belonging for all those living there,” she said.

Vanier was born in Geneva, the fourth of five children of Georges Vanier, a Canadian soldier and diplomat, and his wife, Pauline (nee Archer), who were both committed Catholics. Georges served in both world wars and then became Canada’s ambassador to France and later governor general of Canada. Jean’s childhood was spent between Canada, France and Britain. In 1942, Vanier told his father he wanted to cross the Atlantic to attend the Royal Naval College in Dartmouth. He served with the Royal Navy and then with the Royal Canadian Navy; as a young naval officer of 18, he accompanied the royal family, including the young Princess Elizabeth, on their 1947 voyage on HMS Vanguard to South Africa. But in 1950 he resigned his commission. After his navy career he studied at L’Institut Catholique in Paris for a PhD in Aristotelian ethics. This was followed by a brief period teaching philosophy at the University of Toronto, before he left academia to follow a more spiritual path.

1 Accept the reality of your body

Vanier says, “For a man to become a man he has to be at ease with his body. That body is fragile, like all bodies. We are born in weakness (as a little child); we will die in weakness. And when we get to a certain age- ninety- we begin to get weaker.” He adds, “I have to accept that I’m ninety; I’m not fifty or forty or thirty.”

2. Talk about your emotions

He acknowledges that men in particular “have difficulty expressing their emotions.”

3. Don't be afraid of not being successful.

4. In a relationship, take the time to ask "how are you?"

"Has he married his success in work, or has he married his wife? What is the most important? Is it to grow up the ladder in promotion?" asks Vanier.

5. Stop looking at your phone. Be present!

To young people he says, "You are people of communication." But then he asks, "Are you people of presence? Are you able to listen?" "To be human is to know how to relate," he adds.

6. Ask people "What is your story?"

Vanier emphasises the importance of relating to people and listening to them. He says, "To meet is to listen; tell me your story? Tell me where your pain is? Tell me where your heart is? What are the things you desire? He adds, "I need to listen to you because your story is different to my story."

7. Be aware of your own story

"You are precious. You have your ideas: political, religious, on-religious, you have your vision for the world. Your vision for yourself," says Vanier.

He acknowledges that when we fear our identities, worldviews and cherished opinions are being taken away from us we are liable to become angry. He adds, we have to discover where our fears are because that is the fundamental problem." He asks, "Maybe in your story there is a story about fear?"

8. Stop prejudice: meet people

Vanier says, "The big thing about being human is to meet people. We need to meet people who are different and discover that the other person is beautiful."

9. Listen to your deepest desire

Vanier says, "Unlike animals there is a sort of cry of the infinite within us; we are not satisfied with the finite."

10. Remember that you'll die one day

"I'm just someone who was born 90 years ago and will die in a few years' time and then everyone will have forgotten me. This is reality. We're all here, but we are just local people, passengers on a journey; we get into the train, we get out of the train, the train goes on.

Jean Vanier, humanitarian, born 10 September 1928; died 7 May 2019

Another summer reflection “Check your attitude”

“You must have the same attitude that Jesus had.” Philippians 2:5

A flying instructor will tell you that periodically your plane needs to be “trimmed” or “balanced” in flight. After flying through storms, it gets knocked out of alignment and needs to be adjusted. And the same thing happens on your spiritual journey. The storms of life can “knock you out of alignment.” Unexpected “weather conditions” like sickness, depression, divorce, unemployment, disappointment and death can force you to change direction and strategy. That’s why your attitude needs to be regularly checked and adjusted. So what are you dealing with that may need an attitude check?

Paul writes, “You must have the same attitudeJesus had. “Is such a lifestyle possible? Yes, but you must make it a priority and pursue it each day. Joshua wanted to turn an army of complainers into an army that could conquer the Promised Land. So God gave him this formula for success:

Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night; be sure to obey everything in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do.” (Joshua 1:8) Try the “three- by five technique.” Each week identify a Scripture that relates to an area in which you want to grow, write it down on a three-by- five cards, and memorise it. In one year you will have fifty two Scriptures you can recall and stand on, and think how that will impact your life! Not only will wrong attitudes become right attitudes, but your life will begin to move in the right direction.

(From the current edition of the “Word for Today,” U C B, with permission)



What prayer does

Washes away faults

Repels temptations

Extinguishes persecutions

Consoles the fainthearted

Cheers the low spirited

Escorts travellers

Nourishes the poor

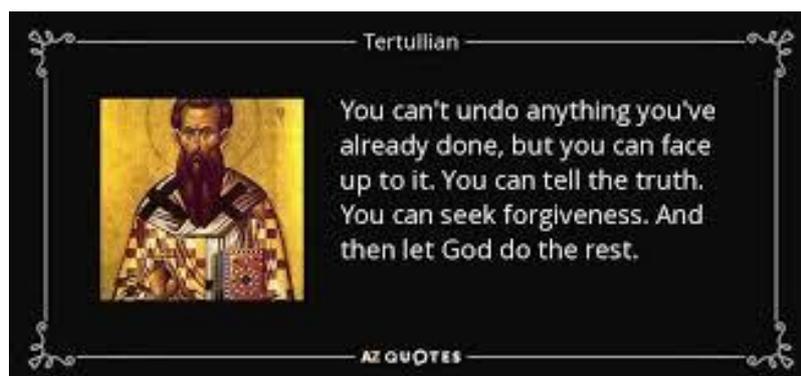
Governs the rich

Raises up the fallen

Arrests the falling

Confirms the standing

(Tertullian; a Christian first Century lawyer and teacher from Carthage, now Tunisia, in the Roman province of Africa)



Prayer is a steering wheel

Someone has written these beautiful words. They are like the Ten Commandments to follow in life at all times.



1. Prayer is not a “spare wheel” that you pull out when in trouble.

But it is a “steering wheel” that directs the right path throughout.

2. So why is a car’s windshield so large and the rear view mirror so small? Because our past is not as important as our future. So, look ahead and move on.

3. Friendship is like a book. It takes few seconds to burn, but it takes years to write.

4. All things in life are temporary. If it’s going well enjoy it; that won’t last long. If it’s going badly, don’t worry that won’t last long either.

5. Old friends are gold. New friends are diamond! If you get a diamond don’t forget the gold! Because to hold a diamond, you always need a base of gold.

6. Often when we lose hope and think this is the end, God smiles from above and says, “Relax sweetheart it’s just a bend, not the end.”

7. When God solves your problems, you have faith in His abilities; When God doesn’t solve your problems, He has faith in your abilities.

8. A blind person asked St Anthony, “Can there be anything worse than losing your eyesight?” He replied, “Yes, losing your vision.”

9. When you pray for others, God listens to you and blesses them; sometimes, when you are safe and happy, remember that someone has prayed for you.

10. Worrying does not take away tomorrow’s troubles; it takes away today’s peace.

Llandudno by Barnaby Powell

It is not Scarborough, but Llandudno which is the Bournemouth of the North, combining Victorian grandeur with something of Swansea's splendid, curving bay. Whenever I go back to the Land of My Fathers, it never rains but it shines. As a deracinated Welshman, I can never go home again, but the place has a special luminance and language. Try saying "Take some jelly for your belly in Llanelli" correctly and you might just pass the native speaker test. The letter 'w' is a vowel ('oo') – this is a code-breaker for place names like Dwygyfylchi.



On the first morning the sun is up in a radiant flash, bouncing in a blinding shimmer off the sea. We're off to visit Portmeirion, the dream-child of the architect, Clough Williams-Ellis, who designed and assembled a quaint cluster of pseudo-Italianate buildings on the shore of a quiet inlet. It would be unkind to call this – as one American did – 'a cut-price Disneyland', because it has the genuine charm of a realised fantasy with here an ornate villa and there an imposing campanile, all cast as scaled-down models – scarcely a jumble of follies. The sea-walk along the estuary leads to a lighthouse, where the vista out over the Irish Sea is so eye-widening it seems to encompass an infinity of time and space.



Our free day in town is taken up with a 'toast-rack' tram ride up the Great Orme, the huge, bald promontory above the pier. Nothing spectacular has ever happened here – none of your Beachy Head final descents; rather, the legend has it, the area is a prime spot for quite unwanted ascents by alien abduction. A jolly, open-top charabanc takes us round this town created very largely by the Mostyn family, who clearly had tremendous clout in the nineteenth century – one matriarch, who headed the Temperance Movement, was so outraged by the siting of two pubs opposite her house

that she ordered them demolished like the Red Queen in Alice in Wonderland. It gets more and more surreal as the town is littered with wooden carvings of the Mad Hatter and the White Rabbit, mementoes of the seaside holidays taken by the original Alice and her fiction-editor, Lewis Carroll. In the evening a succession of rather duff warblers and crooners strive to divert us after dinner. One of them is eventually replaced by a lively girl singing an old Dusty Springfield number. A mean voice behind me mutters, 'She thinks she's the Wings beneath his Wind!'



Next day we make for Caernarfon and its magnificently re-constructed ruin of a castle. Here within the battlements lies the Plinth of Wales (immortalised by Seagoon Harry Secombe at the time of our future King's investiture on it as titular head of the Principality). Here too Lloyd George was Constable of the castle when he wasn't preying on the rest of humanity at Westminster. We do a whirlwind tour of Snowdonia, stopping for an hour or two at Port Madoc, then Betws-y-Coed, a pretty, little place nestling in a quiet corner of the nineteenth century which time has almost forgotten.

Finally, at night, it's showtime for the Male Voice Choir. These men are no scrawny-throated madrigal singers, but sublime sorcerers of song who could have sailed full throttle through the last sixteen acts of *Tosca*, if we'd let them. The soloist is Twm Tegid, surely heir apparent to the great baritone, Bryn Terfel. He sings Mozart and Louis Armstrong in a voice of such a glorious timbre that those Welshmen like myself who think they can sing were struck dumb in awe of it. We end with a rousing rendition of *Cwm Rhondda* and I depart, heartsore with *hiraeth* at the thought that I could never quite go home – but there is another country.....



Q... What do bulletproof vests, fire escapes, windshield wipers and laser printers have in common? A... All were invented by women.

Q... What is the only food that doesn't spoil? A... Honey

In Shakespeare's time, mattresses were secured on bed frames by ropes. When you pulled on the ropes, the mattress tightened, making the bed firmer to sleep on. Hence the phrase- "Goodnight , sleep tight"

It was the accepted practice in Babylon 4,000 years ago that for a month after the wedding, the bride's Father would supply his son-in-law with all the mead he could drink. Mead is a honey beer and because their calendar was lunar based, this period was called the honey month, which we know today as the honeymoon.

In English pubs, Ale is ordered by pints and quarts.... So in old England, when customers got unruly, the Landlord would yell at them 'Mind your pints and quarts, and settle down. It's where we get the phrase: 'Mind your P's and Q's.'

Many years ago in England, pub frequenters had a whistle baked into the rim, or handle, of their ceramic cups. When they needed a refill, they used the whistle to get some service. "Wet your whistle" is the phrase inspired by this practice.

You know you are living in 2019 when...

- 1... You accidentally enter your PIN on the microwave.
- 2... You haven't played Solitaire with real cards in years.
- 3... You have a list of 15 phone numbers to reach your family of three..
- 4... You e-mail the person who works at the desk next to you.
- 5... Your reason for not staying in touch with friends and family is that they don't have e-mail addresses.
- 6... You pull up in your own driveway and use your mobile phone, to see if anyone is home to help you carry in the groceries...
- 7... Leaving the house without your mobile phone, which you didn't even have the first 20 or 30 (or 60) years of your life, is now a cause for panic, and you turn around to go and get it.

(My Canadian cousin Sheila's contribution)

Confucius did not say:

Man who wants pretty nurse must be patient.

Man who leaps off cliff jumps to conclusion

Man who runs in front of car gets tired, but man who runs behind car gets exhausted.

Man who eats too many prunes get good run for money.

War does not determine who is right; it determines who is left.

Man who drives like hell is bound to get there.

Man who stands on toilet is high on pot.

Wise man does not keep sledge hammer and slow computer in same room.

Man who lives in glass house should change clothes in basement.

And, Confucius really did not say...

“A lion will not cheat on his wife, but a Tiger Wood!”

Croydon Circle
Dancing 
2019

St Matthew's Church
Chichester Road, Croydon CR0 5NQ

1st Wednesdays 14.00 – 16.00
3rd July, 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October, 6th
November & 4th December

2nd & 4th Saturdays 10.30 – 12.30
July 13th & 27th
August 10th & 24th
September 14th & 28th
October 12th & 26th
November 9th & 23rd
December 14th & 28th

Contact Sally Ditzel -07568338204
sallyditzel960@gmail.com

The Parish Church of St Matthew, Croydon

(a member of Churches Together in Addiscombe)

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

Parish Committees and Organisations

Young Church (Sunday 10am)	Judith Spencer-Gregson	8688 6640
Fundraising Team	Jane Passfield	
Fellowship Team	Lucasta Grayson	
Communications Team	Revd Simon Foster	
Fabric Team	Stephen Collingwood	
Finance Team	Richard Tweed	
Pastoral Team	Revd Simon Foster	
Circle Dance	Sally Ditzel Sallyditzel1960@gmail.com	07568338204

Youth Groups and Clubs

Rainbow Guides (Wednesday 6.10-7.30)	Zoë Sheehan	07855 779458
Brownies (Wednesday 6.30-8.00pm)	Laura Easton	
Ten O'Clock Club (Tuesday 10-12noon)		
Cubs (Tuesday 7-8.30pm)	Simon Hamilton	07730 586252
Scouts (Tuesday 7-9.00pm)	Michael Smaldon	07949 566023
Guides (Wednesday 6.45-8.30pm)	Zoë Sheehan	07855 779458
Beavers (Friday 6.30-7.30pm)	Tracey Hague	0752 8812877

For details of other activities taking place at church during the week that include Pilates, Bach Choir, Philharmonic Choir, 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 Thursday 9.30am -12.30pm.