

Parish Magazine

£1



August / September 2021

Chichester Road, Croydon

www.stmatthew.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1132508

Services at St Matthew's

Sunday Morning Services

**1st Sundays
8.30 am Eucharist (Said)**

**All other Sundays
10.00 am Parish Eucharist**

Tuesdays at 9.00am

**Zoom Morning Prayer
Meeting ID: 970 706 9858
Passcode: stmatts**

Wednesday

**There will not be Midweek Communion Services during August.
The service resumes on 1st September at 10.00am**

**Baptisms, Weddings and Banns of Marriage
By arrangement with the Vicar**

***St Matthew's Vision
Sharing the Love of God***

The Vicar Writes...



Dear Friend,

As I write this, there is still a huge amount of uncertainty regarding our progress out of the pandemic. We have planned for a Holiday Club during August, which looks unlikely to take place; we would under normal circumstances be having a cooked lunch following our Patronal Festival service on 19th September, but who knows whether we can hold such an event?

Uncertainty is not good for us. To make plans and have to change them - sometimes at the last minute - adds to our stress levels. I have spoken with couples getting married who have had to postpone their big day two or three times! We all have been impacted to a greater or lesser extent by the events of this last year and a half, and for some people that impact has been huge. We must be careful not to minimise the significance of the pandemic on, for example, our mental health and wellbeing. Some cope with stress better than others, but many people have been brought to breaking point or even beyond.

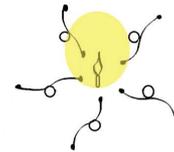
As Christians we have an anchor that hopefully has helped us to hang on and keep going. But our faith does not prevent us from breakdown, and there is no shame in recognising that we need help. If we have found ourselves without our usual support networks due to lockdown and isolation, we should not be too surprised if we collapse under the pressure.

Although the vaccines have provided a high level of immunity to the virus, we know people who have still become ill even though they have been fully vaccinated. Faith does not immunise us against the trials of life or guarantee success. What faith can do is to help us maintain an eternal perspective on our situation. It can lift us out of the quagmire of our circumstances by reminding us that although we may feel like we are on sinking sand, beneath us is the everlasting rock. As with all of life's circumstances, we need to remember that this too must pass. The rock is, of course, Jesus who is the same yesterday, today and forever. In him we will remain secure.

So in all the ups and downs, highs and lows, raised and dashed hopes and any other uncertainty you can think of, may we keep our hearts fixed on the Lord. It is only he who knows the answer to the question I posed at the beginning; although it is said that the only certainties in life are death and taxes, I would want to encourage us to add a third: the sure and certain love of God on which all our hopes are pinned, all our joys are found and in whom we can find peace in the midst of the fiercest storm.

With my love and prayers. *Simon*

Croydon Circle Dancing



Aug 2021 – Dec 2021

St Matthew's Church

Chichester Road, Croydon, CR0 5NQ

2nd & 4th Saturdays 10.30 – 12.30

**August 14th & 28th
September 11th & 25th
October 9th & 23rd
November 13th & 27th
December 11th**

**Contact Sally Ditzel - 07568338204
sallyditzel1960@gmail.com**

Reflection- Still the Light

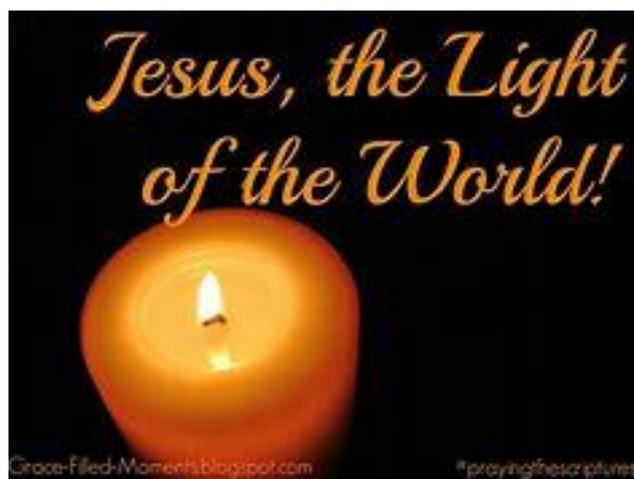
“You are the light of the world”- Matthew 5:14

The age of secularization has pushed believers into the margins of life. We may maintain our beliefs as long as we do not carry them into public places, we are told. Yet there is a voice with higher authority and greater depth than our secular culture. It is the Lord of creation who says: “You are the light of the world.” As much as the world may push us to the periphery of relevance, it has no answers. It usually doesn’t even ask the right questions. But with certainty, it concludes that the Gospel is of little importance. The secular offense at the Gospel is astounding and absurd. But still we are told to be salt of the earth and lights in the world.

What a catastrophe for secular culture will the coming of the Son of Man be! It will be for our salvation, but unbelieving eyes will be amazed when He appears, having invested everything- all of their resources- in the fallacies of human institutions. Having spent centuries building earthly kingdoms, our fallen race will marvel- and gnash its teeth- at the only kingdom standing at the end.

Do not be intimidated by this world. It seeks answers but condemns anyone who claims to have them. It honours openness to all kinds of “truths” but scoffs when one accepts *the* truth. No, our Master will not let us be intimidated by this skepticism. He has given us neither a light to be hidden nor a spirit of fear. The world craves answers, and though it does not recognize Him, He is the answer. The world seeks wisdom and our God has given us the mind of Christ (1 Corinthians 2:16). We have no apologies to make for offering the light of salvation to a world in darkness. In fact, we owe apologies to the Lord if we do not. Be bold. “Let your light shine before men.” (Matthew 5:16)

(From ‘At His feet devotional’ by Chris Tiegreen- with permission)



The Persecuted Church – Nepal; for our prayers



The church is rapidly growing in the former Hindu kingdom of Nepal which has been a secular nation since 2008. In the early 1950's there were virtually no Christians in the Himalayan country, but today it is estimated that there could be as many as 1.5 million believers, or about 5% of the population, 85% of which is Hindu. A growing religious nationalism has taken root in the country with demands for Nepal to return to a Hindu state.

A law that came into force in 2018 made it a criminal offence to attempt to convert a follower of religion “being practiced since ancient times.” This is interpreted as a religion passed down through at least three generations, thus protecting Hindus and Buddhists but excluding most Nepali Christians who are either first or second –generation believers. In effect, Christians can no longer evangelise Hindus or Buddhists or even state publicly what they believe, without risk. Nepal has struggled to contain an explosion of Covid-19 cases probably worse than neighbouring India's. “Christians who are Covid patients don't get good care in the hospital; they are discriminated against.” wrote a Nepalese pastor, adding that a wave of persecution against Christians has started. He reported that more than 15,000 churches were closed, leaving thousands of pastors penniless alongside daily-wage earners who had lost their work. Ask the Father of compassion to have mercy on Nepal and especially the beleaguered Christians.



Christian families in remote mountain villages were given emergency food aid by Barnabas Fund in the Covid crisis.

Miracle of the House Churches in India

During the past decade that I have edited the church magazine (this is the 66th issue), I have often written articles about how Christians in India encounter persecution, marginalization and hostility for sharing their faith. Last week I read some encouraging news which I wish to share.

“In India we have seen a miracle in our lifetime; a nation-wide movement of house churches” said one Church leader recently. Mahatma Gandhi once said, “I like your Christ, not your Christians.” Many millions of Indians are in a similar situation – they are hugely attracted to Jesus but appalled by Western Christianity. There was a game-changing, pivotal moment 25 years ago when Church 1, the colonial church system known there (church building, pastor- driven, very patriarchal) was complemented by Church 2, a far more indigenous, house-based church planting initiative. Many women, especially the illiterate ones, were launched into amazing fruitfulness. This strategic work has seen many networks increase in thousands of house churches. A local Indian partner recently explained that because they could not meet with others during lockdown, they decided to simply start praying for unsaved people they know. Then, they decided to follow up these prayers by phone and WhatsApp. They estimate about 100,000 conversions during lockdown.

Similarly, with church planting, they encouraged every church to pray for 10 specific villages or neighbourhoods with no churches. Then, as restrictions loosened slightly, they were able to get into these regions. It is estimated that churches adopted about 50,000 villages during lockdown and 25% now have an ‘opening’ for the Gospel-some believers, a small house church etc. As one church worker stated, “This looks a lot like the first century church.”



Bible themed verses- Blessings

Blessings- God's favour and protection; something that brings wellbeing; a beneficial thing for which one is grateful.

All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God. **(Deuteronomy 28:2)**

Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, but who meditates on His law day and night. **(Psalm 1:1-2)**

Blessed are those who have regard for the weak; the Lord delivers them in times of trouble. The Lord protects and preserves them-they are counted among the blessed in the land- he does not give them over to the desire of their foes. **(Psalm 41:1-2)**

“Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this” says the Lord Almighty, “and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it.” **(Malachi 3:10)**

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted. Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled. Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me. **(Matthew 5: 3-11)**



Prayers

A prayer as Covid restrictions ease

God of all times and places,
we come to you for hope and help
as the restrictions under which we have been living
are eased.

We admit to being glad,
and we pray that you will bless
the activities that we can now resume.

We admit to being wary,
and we pray that you will protect
all who are vulnerable and frightened.

We admit to being confused,
and we pray that you will guide
the uncertain and forestall the foolish.

Lead our nation into a future
of safety, freedom and care for one another,
and so may your Kingdom come.

A prayer about racism

Lord God of all the people on earth,
we bring our prayers for all who have been wounded
because of the colour of their skin.

Heal those who have been hurt
by the words and actions of others.

Forgive everything in our behaviour
which falls short of your command
that we should love each other.

Give our nation a great desire to change
so that all may share the joy of being human,
precious to you,
respected by one another,
and delighting in difference.

Amen

Heroes of the faith: William Holman Hunt

Although William Holman Hunt is mostly remembered for *The Light of the World*, that extraordinary portrait of Christ knocking on the door of the soul, he created many other striking paintings. Born in 1827 into a working-class London household, Hunt grew up in an atmosphere where Bible reading was encouraged. He started work as a clerk at the age of 12 but soon entered art school. Acquiring a reputation as a painter, in 1848, along with Dante Gabriel Rossetti and John Everett Millais, he founded the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood, seeking a return to the dynamism, colour and detail of mediaeval painters.



The Light Of The World

Hunt soon acquired his own distinctive style, painting in vivid colours with brilliant lighting and extraordinary detail, and with a remarkable commitment to accuracy. As his artistic career began to rise, Hunt began to return from atheism to the Christian faith. Increasingly his paintings carried an open or subtle message. In painting **The Light of the World** in 1851, Hunt felt that, in some way, he had encountered Christ.

Hunt, anxious to achieve accuracy in his biblical paintings, now took the first of four journeys to the Middle East. Like many Victorian travellers he fell in love with the nature of the area and spent seven years there. During his first visit he produced the remarkable **The Scapegoat**, with its forlorn animal alone in the desolation around the Dead Sea. Although referring to the animal of Leviticus 16:22 that carried the sins of God's people into the wilderness, Hunt also saw it as pointing to Christ as the ultimate sin bearer and had Isaiah 53:4 painted on the frame: 'Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of God and afflicted.'

Hunt continued to produce dramatic canvases, often with a spiritual message, and became popular with the public. In our age of high-definition television it's not easy to recapture the impact that his vibrant and detailed paintings must have made at the time. In the art world, however, Hunt fell out of fashion. Impressionism, which deliberately ignored any commitment to detail, had become popular and morality was now something that people wanted to escape from, rather than endorse. Hunt died in 1910 and was buried in St Paul's Cathedral, close to his final version of *The Light of the World*.

Why is Hunt a Christian hero? Without doubt he was a remarkable artist and a Christian, and in many ways an evangelical. Personally, I'm fascinated by the way that he communicates Christian truth.

First, Hunt's paintings are *compelling*. It's hard to ignore a Holman Hunt painting: with few exceptions, they immediately catch the eye. We are drawn in by their colours, detail and dynamism. His first audiences, used to 'religious art', were engaged (and in some cases enraged!) by what they saw. So in **The Shadow of Death** we have Jesus as a bare-chested carpenter in his workshop, stretching his tired arms wide, and his mother Mary has her back to us.

Second, Hunt's paintings are *challenging*. One of the sad features of much art of all kinds is that many artists, however skilful, ultimately have nothing to say. That's never the case with Holman Hunt: almost all of his paintings convey a message, whether subtle or obvious. Equally challenging is the sense of authenticity and realism found in his paintings. As in **The Finding of the Saviour in the Temple** or **The Shadow of Death** Hunt constantly reminds us that the biblical story is not a fairy tale but real-life accounts of people who existed and events which happened.

Third, Hunt's paintings are *convicting*. Many of Hunt's canvases can be considered to be 'sermons in paint'. One of the dismissive comments about him is that he was a 'moralist'. Well, living as we do at a time where there is a deficit in morality I find that something more to be praised than condemned. Many of his paintings are about conversion in some form or another and often he seems to be sounding a warning. So, for instance, in **The Hireling Shepherd** we have a shepherd who is preoccupied with an attractive country girl, while in the background the sheep are straying and in danger. It's all about Jesus' reference in John 10:11-15 to the 'hired hand' who, not being the shepherd, doesn't care for the sheep. There's a powerful warning in it to all in any position of church responsibility: don't be distracted, care for the flock.

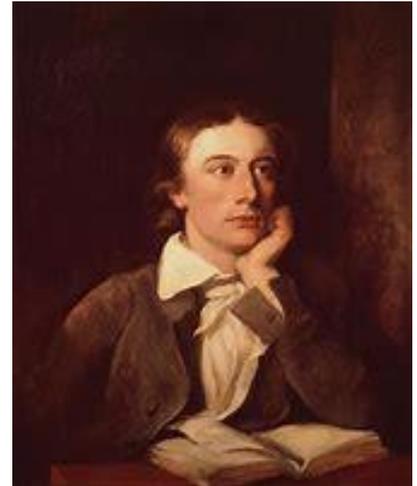
Hunt's art was compelling, challenging and convicting. Isn't that what our preaching about Christ should be?

(By J John, Philo Trust- with permission)

(There is a fascinating collection of PRB's at Tate Britain, Millbank)

The Wave of the Future by Barney Powell

At an age when I can sit quietly in my room and contemplate a future without me, I will profoundly disagree with the notion that I somehow inhabit a kind of grey Utopia – beached high and dry on the farther shores of existence, safe from the ocean of shock and change which has tossed me to this place. At this point those lines of John Keats have a peculiar resonance: ‘When I have fears that I may cease to be/Before my pen has gleaned my teeming brain...’ and I have to concede that I am done with teeming and am now more prone to stargazing and to see in his later lines ‘Huge cloudy



symbols of a high romance...’ and to know that I will live ‘to trace their shadows, with the magic hand of chance.’

The shadows that Keats saw lengthening beyond the earthly span of his consumptive life were the looming spectres of disease and want and ignorance that stalked his world and continue to stalk ours. Covid has laid waste to millions caught between conflicting policies of mandatory and voluntary vaccination.

Prospects for the world appear to be dim, but, even without the aid of a crystal ball, the outline of a foreseeable future looks somewhat like this: Technology will be the main theatre of war with data replacing oil as the most precious commodity; and Space will be the main sphere of competition with East racing West for supremacy;



Climate Change will give rise to a ‘Green Revelation’ (rather than Revolution) to replace populism and nationalism as an ideology; Europe will coalesce around Germany and France to make the EU a powerful sovereign entity; the U.S. will be thrown back on its own resources as its global influence declines with rising

Black and Hispanic demands shifting the shape of American identity; India’s Hindu majority will champion the country as a global power; China will be challenged by its demographic deficit and the need to consolidate astounding growth; Africa will suffer in the conflict for resources to feed and sustain its hungry mouths; South America will be a main target for competition with China making increasing economic inroads; Turkey will be a catalyst for alliance and allegiance in Islam as it expands its influence in the Sunni Arab and

Mediterranean worlds; a Multipolar World is emerging with regional powers strengthening their security interests in their spheres of influence and migration creating more variegated populations; Our own dear Albion, cut adrift from the Continental main, is set to become the maverick microcosm of the shape of things to come.



St.Patrick said it best in the 4th century to calm the jitters of an existential unease:

I bind unto myself today
the virtues of the star lit heaven,
the glorious sun's life-giving ray,
the whiteness of the moon at even,
the flashing of the lightning free,
the whirling wind's tempestuous shocks,
the stable earth, the deep salt sea
around the old eternal rocks.

Quotes

To have Jesus is to have the treasure beyond compare. Listen, God has placed treasure for you to find; it is the Gospel, His kingdom with all its pleasures, His Son who gave His life a king's ransom, paid to bring you home. (Anon)

Greatest glory of heaven is to be in the unhindered, unrestricted, unhurried presence of our Lord. (David Guzik)

Jesus has many lovers of His kingdom but few bearers of His cross.
(Thomas a Kempis)

Let all find compassion in you. (St John of the Cross)

We have a God who delights in impossibilities. (Andrew Murray)

Use your gifts faithfully, and they shall be enlarged. (Matthew Arnold)

The great thing and the only thing is to adore and praise God.
(Thomas Merton)

A life in thankfulness releases the glory of God. (Bengi Sundberg)

Nothing in the world bears the impress of the Son of God so surely as forgiveness. (Alice Cary)

God loves us not because of who we are, but because of who He is. (Anon)

I will place no value on anything I have unless it is in relationship to the kingdom of God. (David Livingstone)

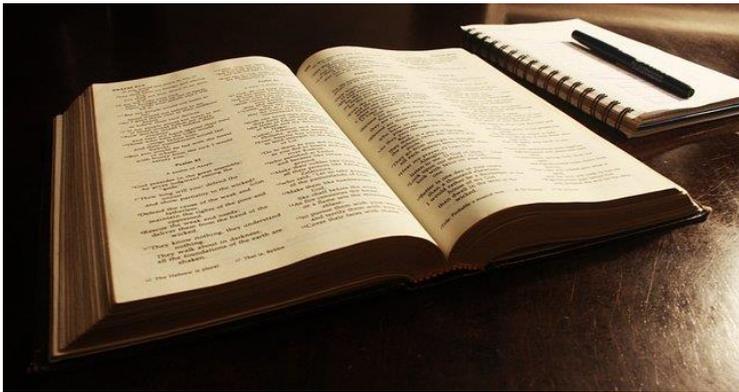
Some read the Bible to learn, and some read the Bible to hear from heaven.
(Andrew Murray)

The best protection against Satan's lies is to know God's truth. (Anon)

No matter how just your words may be, you ruin everything when you speak in anger. (John Chrysostom)

Bible reading up during the Pandemic

Mark Woods from the Bible Society shares the results of a new survey confirming that Bible reading is good for you. Lockdown has seen an explosion in all sorts of activities, from learning languages to gardening, but it's also seen Christians reading the Bible more, and finding hope and comfort in it. Nearly a quarter of the 1000 Christians we surveyed said that reading the Bible had also increased their mental wellbeing. And we discovered that since the pandemic hit, Christians are reading the Bible more often.



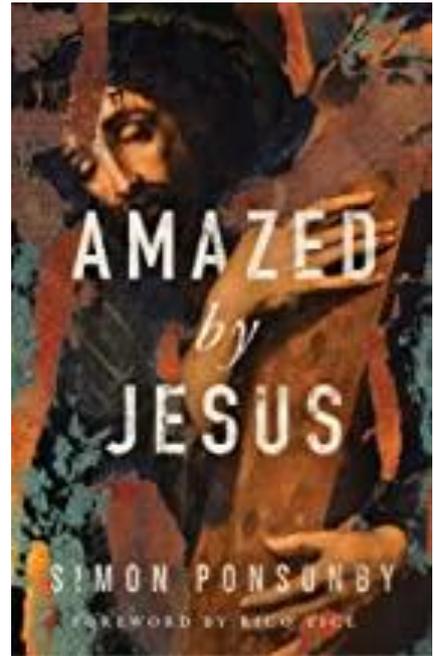
What is it in the Bible, or about the Bible, that makes people more confident, mentally healthier and more hopeful? After all, the Bible is a very varied book – and some of it isn't exactly cheerful. I want to suggest three things. First,

there's much in the Bible that transfers straight across into our situations today. If people are worried about catching COVID -19, or losing their jobs, or they're frustrated and sad about not being able to see their families, Jesus' words "Do not be worried and upset Believe in God and believe also in me (John 14:1) speak straight to their hearts. Right now, all of us need to hear the Bible say: "The eternal God is your refuge and underneath are the everlasting arms."(Deuteronomy 33:27)

Second, though, the Bible is a mixed bag. The psalmists and the prophets spend as much time lamenting as they do rejoicing. The Bible has the language we need to express what we're feeling when the world doesn't make sense: "I am worn out calling for help; my throat is parched. My eyes fail looking for my God" (Psalm 63:3). But third: The Bible helps to locate ourselves in God's big story. The Bible is full of stories, but it's one story. It begins in a garden and ends in a garden city. The act of reading the Bible in faith makes us part of something bigger. We understand that our lives have meaning and that God is for us- Jesus is risen. Perhaps, then, it's not surprising that we're turning to the Bible more. What better book could there be, for such a time as this?

Book review - 'Amazed by Jesus' by Simon Ponsonby

The author is an Oxford-based Vicar who has written many books, one of which, 'Different; Living the holy Life,' some readers may recall I reviewed in a previous magazine. Encompassing the many names and descriptions of Jesus in Scripture eg 'The King of the Jews', 'The Good Shepherd', 'The Lamb of God', and 'Lord and Saviour' etc, Ponsonby's latest book reveals the One who is God come to us. It is interwoven with fascinating anecdotes amplifying particular points, enabling the reader to restore our vision of Jesus and helping us know and experience Him better.



Ponsonby has the ability to make deep theological truths accessible to everyone, and he writes with the rigour of a scholar yet with the heart of a pastor. He has a profound understanding of history, art and literature which is exquisitely interwoven in a rich tapestry of elegant prose; thus he conveys the story of Jesus for the 21st Century reader. Indeed, someone commented "that it is impossible to read this book and not be captured and captivated by the wonder of Jesus." I wholeheartedly endorse that and whatever the reader's circumstances, whether wandering in the valley or on the mountaintop in your life, Jesus is brought near throughout these pages. It is a timely reminder that we are truly seen, loved and accepted, and thus this changes everything. The book points us to what a magnificent and personal gift Jesus really is.

The book finishes, as with the Bible, on the truth that Jesus is returning and warns that we must prepare for persecution, ridicule and hostility. While writing this brief review I recall reading that Chinese Christians were not taught about the possibility of persecution by the State, thus were totally unprepared and suffered terribly during the purge by Mao Tse Tung's Cultural Revolution in 1949. Maybe a lesson for the West's Church as I feel that storm clouds are gathering with many signs presaging our Lord's return (Matthew 24 etc)?

This is the finest book about the divinity and humanity of Jesus that I've read in many years. It really is superb and not to be hurried; the 18 chapters (eg 'He walks with us' and 'He is the water of life'), each one subdivided, provide ample material for personal contemplation, and as an excellent study guide for a Church home group.

Solid Ground

“Therefore, whoever hears these sayings of mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who builds his house on the rock.”
(Matthew 7:24)

Istanbul is one of the most beautiful cities on earth – the link between Europe and Asia – but it’s also one of the most vulnerable spots for a major earthquake. It sits directly on top of an active fault line and, because of this, thousands of buildings in the city are perilously unsafe.



Millions of people are building their lives on unstable ground in a spiritual and moral sense. Only the Gospel provides a worldview that will sustain us when our world shakes. Jesus made this point visually in His story of the two men

in Matthew 7. Both men listened to His teachings. One man followed through with faith and obedience, and he built his life on solid ground. The other listened, then went his way without trusting or obeying what Jesus said. The ground beneath him collapsed.

The Gospel brings steadfastness to those who trust it. Those who build on Jesus are on stable ground. As the hymnist said, “When all around my soul gives way,
He then is all my hope and stay.”

(From ‘Turning Points’ devotional-with permission)

On Christ the solid rock I stand; all other ground is sinking sand.
(Edward Mote)

Late summer art- beach scenes

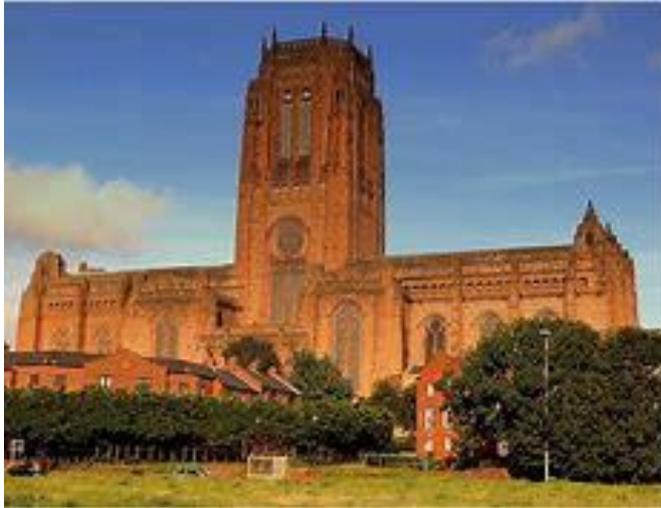


Thank you, Degas, Van Gogh, Singer Sargent, and Potthast

Famous church architects: Giles Gilbert Scott

Sir Giles Gilbert Scott OM RA FRIBA (9 November 1880–8 February 1960) was a British architect known for his work on the New Bodleian Library, Cambridge University Library, Lady Margaret Hall, Oxford, Battersea Power Station, Liverpool Cathedral, and designing the iconic red telephone box. Scott came from a family of architects. He was noted for his blending of Gothic tradition with modernism, making what might otherwise have been functionally designed buildings into popular landmarks. Born in Hampstead, London, Scott was one of six children and the third son of George Gilbert Scott Jr. (Founder of Watts & Co. in 1874) and his wife, Ellen King Samson. His father was an architect, the son of Sir (George) Gilbert Scott, a more famous architect, known for designing the Albert Memorial and the Midland Grand Hotel at St Pancras Station.

When Scott was three, his father was declared to be of unsound mind and was temporarily confined to the Bethlem Royal Hospital. Consequently, his sons saw little of him. Giles later said that he remembered seeing his father only twice. A bequest from an uncle in 1889 gave the young Scott ownership of Hollis Street Farm, near Ninfield, Sussex, with a life tenancy to his mother. During the week Ellen Scott and her three sons lived in a flat in Battersea,



spending weekends and holidays at the farm. She regularly took them on cycling trips to sketch buildings in the area, and encouraged them to take an interest in architecture. In 1901, while Scott was still an architectural pupil, the diocese of Liverpool announced a competition to select the architect of a new cathedral. For architects,

the competition was an important event; not only was it for one of the largest building projects of its time, but it was only the third opportunity to build an Anglican cathedral in England since the Reformation in the 16th century (St Paul's Cathedral being the first, rebuilt from scratch after the Great Fire of London in 1666, and Truro Cathedral being the second, begun in the 19th century). Scott submitted his own entry, on which he worked in his spare time.

In 1903, the assessors recommended that Scott should be appointed. There was widespread comment at the nomination of a 22-year-old with no existing buildings to his credit. The choice of winner was even more contentious when

it emerged that Scott was a Roman Catholic, but the assessors' recommendation was accepted by the diocesan authorities.

In 1910 Scott realised that he was not happy with the main design, which looked like a traditional Gothic cathedral in the style of the previous century. He persuaded the cathedral committee to let him start all over again (a difficult decision, as some of the stonework had already been erected) and redesigned it as a simpler and more symmetrical building with a single massive central tower instead of the original proposal for twin towers. Scott's new plans provided more interior space. At the same time Scott modified the decorative style, losing much of the Gothic detailing and introducing a more modern, monumental style.

The Lady Chapel, the first part of the building to be completed, was consecrated in 1910. Work was severely limited during the First World War, with a shortage of manpower, materials and money. By 1920, the workforce had been brought back up to strength and the stone quarries at Woolton, source of the red sandstone for most of the building,



reopened. The first section of the main body of the cathedral was complete by 1924, and on 19 July 1924, the 20th anniversary of the laying of the foundation stone, the cathedral was consecrated in the presence of King George V and Queen Mary, and bishops and archbishops from around the globe. Construction continued throughout the 1930s, but slowed drastically throughout the Second World War, as it had done during the First. Scott continued to work on the project until his death, refining the design as he went. He designed every aspect of the building down to the fine details. The cathedral was finished in 1978, nearly two decades after Scott's death.

Scott continued working on churches during the inter-war years. Shortly after his work on the nave at Downside Abbey he was commissioned to design the small Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady & St Alphege, Bath, the first part of which was completed in 1929. His design was inspired by the church of Santa Maria in Cosmedin, Rome. Scott's distillation of the main elements of that large and ancient church into the much smaller Bath parish church has been described as "a delight" which "cannot fail to astonish". Some 25 years later he wrote "The church was my first essay into the Romanesque style of architecture. It has always been one of my favourite works".

Scott continued to receive commissions for religious buildings and remained working into his late 70s. He was working on designs for the Roman Catholic Church of Christ the King, Plymouth when he developed lung cancer and died.

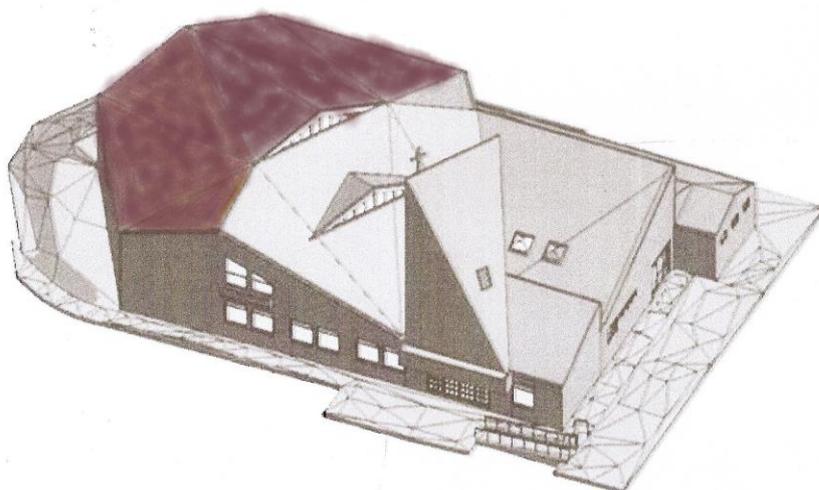
Church Roof – Progress Report

First, a very big thank you to all of you who have contributed so far to our Roof Fund appeal.

We have now achieved over 30% of the funds needed to cover the estimated total cost of St Matthew's roof repairs (c.£470,000). This qualifies us to apply to Allchurches Trust for additional funding. The next big potential source of assistance in our sights is the National Church Trust, whose 'Cornerstone Grant' will require us to have achieved at least 50% of the total cost of the repairs. Towards this goal in the meantime, we are pursuing a number of avenues, including The Big Give Challenge, which will run for a week at the end of November, in which participants compete for funds by pledging sums of money in the hope of attracting Champions (or sponsors who may choose to back our cause) to add money to our matching pot. To this end, we need pledges from donors of an initial minimum sum of £100 each to set the ball rolling, we need to get to a total of £2,000 in pledges. (Speak to Jan Williams for details of how these pledges are made and when they are called.)

We are asking Croydon Council if we need to obtain planning permission for the repairs. We also need to obtain a faculty from the DAC - then we can move forward with the roof design. Once this is finalised, we will be in a position to apply to other charitable foundations for contributions as well. We are making steady, incremental gains towards our goal and need now to maintain and vigorously promote our vision of St Matthew's as a vital community hub.

(The Roof Fund Committee)



Summer Humour

In case you needed further proof that the human race is doomed through stupidity here are some actual label instructions on consumer goods provided by Canadian cousin Sheila.

On MaCain's Tiramisu dessert (printed on bottom)

'Do not turn upside down.'

On Planter's peanuts

'Warning: contains nuts.'

On Shoppers Drug Children's Cough Medicine-

'Do not drive a car or operate machinery after taking this medication.'

On President's Choice Bread Pudding -

'Product will be hot after heating.'

On a Sears hairdryer -

Do not use while sleeping.

In a bag of Fritos -

**You could be a winner! No purchase necessary.
Details inside.**

On a bar of Dial soap -

'Directions: Use like regular soap.'

On some Swanson frozen dinners-

Serving suggestion: Defrost.'

On Nytol Sleep Aid-

'Warning: May cause drowsiness'

On packaging for a Black & Decker iron -

'Do not iron clothes on body.'

On most brands of Christmas lights -

'For indoor or outdoor use only.'

The winners of the 'Bird quiz' in the previous issue were:

Robert & Ruth Streeter, + Geoff & Lois Haddow

I am a Seenager. (Senior teenager) I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 60 years later:

I don't have to go to school or work.

I get an allowance every month.

I have my own pad.

I don't have a curfew.

I have a driving license and my own car.

The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant and I don't have acne.

Life is great.

Gone are the days when girls used to cook like their mothers. Now they drink like their fathers.

I didn't make it to the gym today. That makes five years in a row.

Old age is coming at a really bad time.

When I was a child I thought "Nap Time" was a punishment. Now, as a grownup, it feels like a small holiday.

The biggest lie I tell myself is "I don't need to write that down, I'll remember it."

I don't have grey hair; I have "wisdom highlights"! I'm very wise indeed.

If God wanted me to touch my toes, He would've put them on my knees.

Last year I joined a support group for procrastinators. We haven't met yet.

Why do I have to press one for English when you're just going to be transferred to someone you can't understand anyway?

Of course, I talk to myself. I sometimes need expert advice.

At my age "Getting lucky" means walking into a room and remembering what I came in for.

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Southwark Pastoral Auxiliary	Carolyn Tweed	
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