

INSPIRE



THE MONTHLY MAGAZINE
FOR THE PARISH OF
ST JOHN THE BAPTIST, FROME

JULY 2024

July 2024

The parish of Frome Selwood in the Frome Local Ministry Group

Vicar	Vacancy (from 15th January 2024) <i>Please contact the administrator.</i>	
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Churchwardens	Neil McCormick	
	Terry Bushell	
Lay chair	Peter Connew	
PCC Secretary	Angela Pater	
	Email: angelapater987@btinternet.com	
PCC Treasurer	Christine Holland	
Choir Leader	Rosemary McCormick	
Sacristy Team	Margaret Veakins	
Tower Captain	Matthew Higby	
Flowers	Elaine Gilbert	



St John's Church
and Frome Floral Art Society
present:
A 9181684

EPIC JOURNEYS

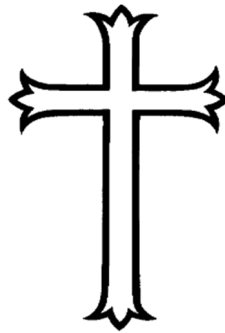
Floral and visual displays - inspired by
this year's 700th anniversary of Marco Polo
- looking at epic and inspiring journeys
through the centuries, and the reasons
for them.

Friday 5th to Sunday 14th July 2024 11am to 4pm daily
St John's Church, Bath Street, Frome
The displays will run throughout the festival and lunchtime refreshments
will be on sale. **Free admission**

FROME FESTIVAL 2024

Dear Friends

You may be reading this after the results of the General Election. If so, please go to the next paragraph! If you are reading before July 5th please exercise your right to vote. In common with most clergy, I would never attempt to prescribe how you should vote, but I would counsel against the view that suggests that 'There is no point in voting.' If you do not like any of the candidates on offer, then indicate an abstention by 'spoiling your paper'. I am influenced in my attitude by my having known three suffragettes. One of them was imprisoned and tortured in Holloway Prison before WW1. A brave and principled woman who was an inspiration to me in several respects.



Practical issues of importance have been in our thoughts in recent months, not only of concern in our nation but here in our parish as we have been preparing the job description for our new parish priest. This document is known as our Parish Profile. Underlying the practical concerns are reflections on the inner or spiritual dimensions of our work. Some of us have been giving thought on what we mean by 'spirit' and 'spirituality'. We encounter the latter term more often these days, sometimes in the context of the diversity of belief and expression in our society. Surveys show that many people describe themselves as being 'Spiritual but not religious'. What do they mean by this? It seems that a common factor is that such people do not wish to identify with a particular religion or religious institutions, but do have a serious interest in many deeper issues.

So how might we approach the subject of spirituality? What are these deeper issues? They are those that arise from our unique sense of curiosity and the questions that arise in our minds from childhood to our old age. Who are we, where did we come from, where are we going? What do we mean by body, mind and spirit? Does life have meaning and purpose? How can science and our encounter with the natural world, here on earth, and in the cosmos,

help us to understand what we mean by reality? How can we understand difference – in personalities, in cultures, in belief? What can we learn from human creativity – in the arts, in social engagement, in political activity? What do we mean by love and care – in individual relationships and in wider philanthropic actions? A lot of questions. All point to some deeper factor, human consciousness, which we all experience, but for which no current scientific theory seems to fully understand or explain. Whatever our view of reality is, life presents us with many challenges, but also many opportunities. We all have positive gifts and talents, we all have weakness and 'blind spots'. We are gifted with a conscience. Difficult though it is sometimes, we do have the ability to distinguish right from wrong. This has been of fundamental importance in the history and practice of our Christian faith, and also applies in all our activities in our families and in our communities.

Give thanks for the reality of the deeper dimensions of life and seek for appropriate ways to explore and express our individual callings, both in the life of faith, and in the ordinariness of everyday life.

Kevin Tingay

Coffee morning and bring and buy

Wednesday 31st July

10.30am to 1pm

at Brookside Cottage, East Woodlands, BA11 5LY

(next to the former Horse & Groom pub)

Courtesy of Christine and Phil Holland



Proceeds to the landscaping
of the Bennett Centre courtyard

Please come and support!

Festival events at St John's



Friday 5 July to Sunday 14 July
11am to 4pm daily

Epic journeys

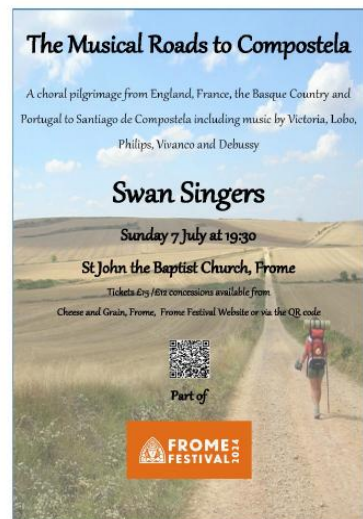
Floral displays by Frome Floral Art Society and St John's Flower Team on the theme of Epic Journeys and our reasons for them

Frome Art for Wellbeing Exhibition
Recent artworks.

Saturday 6th July:
5pm–6.30pm; 7.30pm–9pm
'Music and Myth'
Legends from the Celtic Isles
Ancient tales, images and music from Jon Pickard and his harp guitar



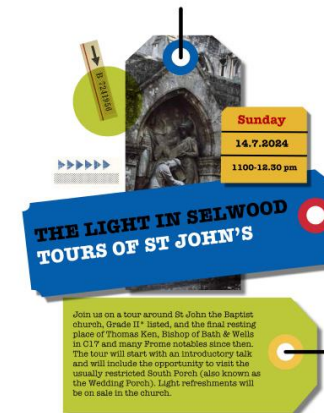
Sunday 7th July 7.30pm–9pm
'The Musical Roads to Compostela'
The Swan Singers
A choral pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela.



Thursday 11th July 6pm–7pm
Festival Choral Evensong

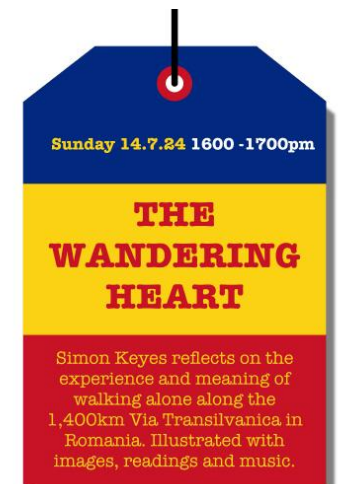
Epic journeys will be reflected in the music which will also include works by composers celebrating significant anniversaries this year.

Saturday 13th July 7.30pm–9.30pm
'The Music of Trees' Geoff Robb
Nature-inspired virtuoso guitar and magical storytelling



Sunday 14th July 11am–12.30pm
'The Light in Selwood' – Tour of St John's
Includes introductory talk and the opportunity to visit the usually restricted South (Wedding) Porch

Sunday 14th July 4pm–5pm
'The Wandering Heart'
Simon Keyes—*illustrated talk reflecting on the experience and meaning of walking alone along the 1,400km Via Transilvanica in*



News from the PCC

Here's a quick round-up of some of the things that have been keeping your PCC busy recently – please ask any member of the PCC if you would like more details:

New PCC member: The PCC at its meeting on 19 June co-opted Rosemary McCormick as a member until the 2025 APCM. Congratulations to Rosemary.

The vacancy: We have done our best to keep you informed on the weekly sheet about our progress in finding a new vicar for St John's. We are pleased to report now that the parish profile and advert are approved, and that the advert is due in the *Church Times* very soon. Our representatives on the shortlisting panel and at the interviews in September will be Steve Smith and Rosemary McCormick.

Installation of fully glazed doors at the west end of church: You may have seen the architect's drawings on the current doors. The application for a faculty to install these has been made to the diocese and we await their response.

Safeguarding: Our safeguarding officer, Steve Smith, has been renewing and updating our policy and procedures, and several PCC members have been renewing their safeguarding training (required every three years).

Cottage garden: We hope you've noticed a big improvement recently: as part of the agreement to rent rooms in the cottage, Focus Counselling have taken over the care of the garden – and what a good job they are doing. Many thanks to them.

Vestry: Our thanks to Kevin Tingay who, as well as taking a good number of our services at the moment, has done an amazing job tidying up the vestry – we've never seen it so clear!

Other tidying up: We also thank the good fairies who have sorted out the kitchen cupboards and who quietly get on with polishing the brass and woodwork when they have a moment – not to mention the mowing and tidying of the forecourt undertaken by our lay chair in addition to all his other tasks.

Stewardship review: A small group has been looking at this, and the review is being planned for the end of September during the Church of England's Generosity Week.

Archives: Another small group has been holding meetings in our records room – the Parvise Room (the room up the stairs behind the kitchen area) – with volunteers from Frome Museum who are helping us to get our records in order and linked in to the Museum's system.

Damage to the war memorial: You may have noticed that a large number of the stones have been shifted out of place. This has been reported to the police and advice is being obtained about repairs. The damage to the churchyard railings and wall along the path next to the church is the responsibility of the local authority and we have made sure they are aware of the issue.

Classical concert involving our school: We are pleased to be working with the Bristol Ensemble, who will be performing Vivaldi's *Four Seasons* in our church on Fri 13 September. They are keen to bring their music to children as well as adults, so they have invited our school to join in the afternoon rehearsal when they will do some singing, learn about the instruments and listen to some live music.



St John's School News

Our **Eco-Warriors** have finished building a hedgehog home and are looking out for evidence of any hedgehogs taking up residence.



Walk and Run for 'We Hear You': On 10th June, many staff and some children took part in a walk / run to support the local charity We Hear You at Victoria Park to support Rachel Clarke, who is doing a daily run of 1 mile throughout 2024 to raise money for the charity. We plan to repeat this on **Mon 1st July at 6.00pm** – it's the halfway mile of Rachel's fundraising year! Come along for a walk / run if you would also like to take part. Children are welcome to attend with an adult.

End of Term Service for Year 4 Leavers: This will be at 9.15am on Wednesday 24 July at St John's Church.

News and events at other churches

St Katharine's, East Woodlands

Our new vicar Jo is organising a short regular afternoon prayer session on a weekday afternoon for anyone who would like to join her for peaceful reflection in the church.

We will soon be having a defibrillator in Woodlands: the current plan is to have it mounted in the church porch, which is warm and dry and never locked.

Victoria Turner celebrated her 80th birthday with a lunch for friends and family and requested no presents but donations to Dorothy House. The magnificent sum of £875.00 was raised.



At a recent Morning Service, a new choir member - border collie Misty, Lorna Wheeler's new puppy - was welcomed. Misty introduced herself to all the choir and congregation, then promptly fell asleep beside Roma for the entire service!

I'm sad to report the deaths of two long-term residents of Woodlands, Ray Minty (88) and Ken House (94). I'm sure everyone has received flowers from Minty's nurseries or bought plants for the garden, and Ken, of course, was a builder whose work was second to none. They will be sadly missed.

East Woodlands Village Hall

Pop Up Pub 7.00pm on 5th July and 2nd August.

Bingo Night 20th July 7.30 pm

Cream Teas every Sunday throughout August 3.00pm - 5.00pm in the Hall and/or Garden, depending on the weather.



If you need any further information on any of the following please ring Chris and Glyn Carpenter on 01373 462963.

Pam Chapman



Mary's House Community

We have a further Community Discussion as we work to establish a rule of life for the emerging community - Monday 15 July at 7 pm in St Mary's Church Hall. You'd all be very welcome!

We are very much enjoying meeting to explore different prayer traditions. Our next prayer times are Tuesday 9 July at 7 pm and Tuesday 23 July at 7 pm both at Mary's House. Further dates this summer will be 6 & 20 August and 3 September.

Also, we are joining in with the Diocesan Wave of Prayer from Friday evening 6 September through to the end of Saturday 7. It would be particularly great if you would hold in your diaries the afternoon of Saturday 7 September when we expect to have a special visitor.

More later!

Andrew Alden

Mary's House Community

info@maryshouse.org



Holy Trinity Church News

Men United: Men's social and fellowship group

Zoom Meetings on 18 July, 21 November, 7 December

Breakfasts at Trinity Hall on 21 September and 7 December

Curry Night at Frome Town Football Club on 24 October

Contact Dave Dunn for further information and the Zoom link

davedunn50050@yahoo.co.uk





Tea Time at St John's

We met for the first of our 'What is Spirituality?' events on the third Sunday in June.

Rather embarrassingly, I had forgotten that the Rook Lane/Zion congregation was joining us for this session, but some arrived, complete with delicious cakes (particularly welcome as Rosemary, our main supplier of delicious cakes, was in Salisbury continuing her Reader training). We had some pleasant fellowship, before going into the Lady Chapel for the more formal part of the afternoon as Kevin took us through various aspects of Spirituality (see Kevin's earlier article) and we explored some notions of 'cultural Christianity' – very much a Radio 3 concept – and the 'spirit of the regiment' – with the previous day's Trooping the Colour still in mind. Kevin concluded by leading us through a beautiful form of Evening Worship which we found extraordinarily inclusive and meaningful wherever we found ourselves on the spirituality

Diocesan Day of Prayer

Saturday 7 September



The diocese says: The Archbishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby, has asked to join us for a number of prayer events across Bath and Wells, over 24 hours, starting with a worship evening for young people in Bath on Friday, 6 September and then continuing in varied locations in each of the three archdeaconries on Saturday 7 September. Alongside these larger gatherings, we hope that churches will hold their own local gatherings so that together, across our diocese, we can pray for the growth of our churches and the transformation of our communities.

The outline for our time of prayer is:

Friday, 6 September 7pm-9pm Movement Worship Night, for young people, at St Michael's Without, Bath

Saturday, 7 September: 9am-10am and 10.30-11.30 in Bridgwater; 12.15–1.45pm in Nailsea and 3pm-4.15pm St Mary's Church, Frome
More details in the August magazine.

Craft and Cake at St John's



Craft and Cake meetings are now held in church during the summer. Taking place on a Thursday afternoon, the next dates are July 4 and 18, August 1, 15 and 29. All meetings are 2 - 4pm and end with a cuppa and piece of delicious home made cake.

We would welcome anyone to come. If you do any craft, knitting, cross stitch, or just want to come for some advice, encouragement or a good chat, come and join us.

Judith and Gill

Bolton Parish Church

A few weeks ago, Choral Evensong on BBC Radio 3 came from Bolton Parish Church. Most people would have been surprised, as all they know about Bolton is its football team and that it is an industrial town in Lancashire. However, it reminded me of a happy afternoon in 1962, when I escaped from a Christmas shopping expedition with my to-be Manchester in-laws to spend a couple of hours listening to the Bolton Parish Church choir rehearsing for their carol service

I was astonished, when entering the church to hear an excellent boy treble singing the first verse of Harold Darke's setting of *In the Bleak Midwinter*. It seemed so out of place in a grimy town, as Bolton then was, that I was reminded of Thomas Hardy's description of the thrush, singing in the frozen new year woodland: '*little cause for carolings of such ecstatic sound was written on terrestrial things afar or near around*'. I stayed hidden at the back of the church throughout the rehearsal and Bolton went up in my opinion.

Later I looked up the history of the church and found that, for most of its lifetime Bolton had been a remote settlement on the moors, with a Saxon and later a Norman church for the small rural population. It is mentioned in the 1086 Domesday Book but with very little detail. Markets were held there from 1251, when Bolton became a market town and borough under a charter from the Earl of Derby. But there



was very little industry and little to distinguish Bolton from other small settlements in the area.

Bolton did become a centre for textile production from the 14th century when Flemish weavers settled in the area, introducing a wool and cotton-weaving tradition. More Flemish weavers, fleeing the Huguenot persecutions, settled there in the 17th century. But not until the 19th century did it become

a boom town, at the time of the Industrial Revolution. This reached a peak in 1929, with over 200 cotton mills and 26 bleaching and dyeing works making it one of the largest and most productive centres of cotton spinning in the world. There was also a lot of pollution. However, with cheaper competition from abroad, particularly India and later China and other East Asian countries, the industry rapidly declined after 1920 and had virtually disappeared by the time I was there in 1962. Today, the excellent M&S jumper I am wearing as I write this was woven in Madagascar.

By the 19th century there were some very wealthy people in Bolton, and when the community felt that the small Norman church was not large enough for the growing population, Peter Ormrod, a local cotton manufacturer and banker, volunteered to pay for the whole construction himself: it cost him £47,000, or more than £5 million in today's money. This was nearly three times as much as Vicar Bennett spent on St John's Frome at about the same time, showing the dedication to religion at that time. The existing Bolton church was demolished and a new Victorian Gothic Church created.

The church is now Grade 2* listed, built of Longridge stone, and widely recognised as one of the finest examples of the Victorian Gothic style of architecture. The tower is the tallest of any parish church in Lancashire and commands extensive views of the moors. The church has a nave with clerestory – a high section of wall that contains windows above eye-level – north and south aisles, transepts, a chancel with a lady chapel and a pipe organ chamber. On the south side of the south aisle is a gabled porch with wrought-iron screen. The

vestry, added later at its north east corner, is reminiscent of chapter houses of pre-Reformation Abbeys.

There are five bays in the nave, divided by buttresses with lean-to aisles and a clerestory above. In each bay is a three-light decorated window with tracery. The clerestory has paired windows with ball flower decorations and gargoyles. There are traceried pinnacles at the east end of the chancel. There is a seven-light east window in the chancel with lancet windows above it. The north transept also has a seven-light window and there is a five-light decorated window in the south transept. The lady chapel to the east of the chancel has two two-light windows to south and a three-light east window.

The chancel and west end of the nave have Minton tiled floors. The octagonal pulpit wraps round the northern crossing pier and has a stone base and a wrought-iron stair rail. The nave seating includes three misericords saved from the demolished 15th-century church.

The Bolton Parish Church Choir sings weekly in four parts at the Parish Eucharist, Choral Evensong and on festival and other occasions. It has a wide repertoire, including both traditional and contemporary compositions. Those listening to the recent Choral Evensong will have heard a service of English music, concluding with Percy Whitlock's Organ Fanfare. The church houses a magnificent three-manual organ, which was thoroughly overhauled in 2009 and a mobile console added. There is also a fine Yamaha grand piano, both of which are used in the summer series of Tuesday lunchtime concerts.



Emphasis on excellent music has led the PCC to invest in the post of Director of Music for many years.

It is difficult to imagine a modern rich business man spending his money on a new church: the likelihood is that such money would be spent to alleviate poverty, mitigate climate change or advance medical research. But we should still look back with gratitude to people like Peter Ormrod in Bolton and Vicar Bennett in Frome who created such magnificent buildings that still give such pleasure to so many.

Chris Lewis

Film Review

Freud's Last Session

We are very lucky, here in Frome, to have an excellent independent cinema, and I try to go to see as many films as possible, although I am not very keen on the cartoons and Marvel films that seem to have dominated the screens in recent months. When I saw this film advertised, I was intrigued and determined to go to see it.

The premise is that on the eve of World War 2, C.S. Lewis visited Sigmund Freud at his home in London. The knowledge that Anthony Hopkins was Sigmund Freud and Matthew Goode was C.S. Lewis made me think that it would be worth seeing: they are both consummate actors, and there was the added interest of knowing that 30 years ago Hopkins had played C.S. Lewis in the acclaimed film, *Shadowlands*.

It is known that in September 1939 Freud was visited by "an Oxford Don" but there is no record of who that was. In fact it would seem unlikely that Freud and Lewis would ever have met, but in 2003 a Harvard professor, Armand Nicholi, wrote a book *The Question of God* in which he presented the writings of both men, Freud the atheist and Lewis the atheist-turned-believer, allowing their respective arguments to be evaluated and judged by the reader. In 2009 this book was the basis of a stage play by American playwright Mark St Germain, and the film is an adaptation of this play.

Before I went to see the film I had watched all the trailers and documentary interviews that I could find online (there are quite a lot!) and I was intrigued to see how it would play out on the screen. Parts of it were filmed in Freud's actual house in Hampstead; in 1939 he was suffering from cancer of the jaw, and he was to take his own life just two weeks after the outbreak of war. Hopkins was very convincing as the old, sick man, still keen to argue about his beliefs, and Matthew Goode was equally convincing as the Oxford academic, slightly in awe of the older man, and willing to engage in intellectual discussion. In the film we were given some insights into their opposing beliefs, but there was also quite a lot of cinematic "baggage". There were several other threads running through the film: Freud's controlling

relationship with his lesbian daughter, as well as the back stories of both main characters: Lewis's experiences in the WWI trenches, and Freud's own memories of growing up in a Jewish family which paid little regard to religious belief.



Would I recommend this film? On the plus side the acting was excellent, and it raised some very interesting and thought-provoking ideas. However, some of the dream and flashback sequences felt rather gratuitous, and the portrayal of the early days of the war seemed inaccurate. Were children really being evacuated from London before war had even been declared, and were there really barrage balloons and air-raid sirens at such an early stage of hostilities. I suspect it won't be in the cinema for very long – when we went there were only daytime showings, and there were only about 10 people in the audience (4 from St John's!). It might come onto Netflix later in the year, and I would probably watch it again, if only to re-visit some of the arguments that were being expressed. I am certainly keen to read the Armand Nicholi book if I can find a copy, and I intend to read more of Lewis's writings (other than Narnia!)

It is certainly not a great film, and it probably has rather limited appeal, but for Anthony Hopkins fans it has a surprise at the end: the final music on the soundtrack, *And the waltz goes on*, was, in fact, composed by Hopkins, who studied at the Royal Welsh college of Music and Drama in the 1950s and might easily have followed a career as a musician had he not been spotted by Laurence Olivier who invited him to join the National Theatre.

Rosemary McCormick

SERVICES at ST JOHN's – JULY 2024

Weekly at 8.45am - Sunday Morning Service on Zoom

Sunday 7th July - Sixth After Trinity

9.45am Holy Communion

Sunday 14th July - Seventh After Trinity

9.45am Holy Communion

Sunday 21st July - Eighth After Trinity

9.45am Holy Communion

Sunday 28th July - Ninth After Trinity

9.45am Holy Communion

Sunday 4th August - Tenth After Trinity

9.45am Holy Communion

Early in-person Sunday services in Frome

1st & 3rd Sundays; 8am Christ Church; 2nd & 4th Sundays; 9am St Mary's

Open Doors:

every 2nd Saturday,
10.30am to 12 noon.

Next date: Saturday 13th July

An opportunity for people to deal with baptism/wedding arrangements and for volunteer teams to meet

Sacristy team: Jan & Jul

Sidesmen: March & Sep

Intercessions team: Apr & Oct

Servers team: May & Nov

Lesson readers team: Jun & Dec

Frome Folk Singers Presents:

Singing to Save Lives!
"Songs of the Sea"

A concert of in aid of the RNLI

17th July, 8pm-9pm At The Bennett Centre,
Frome

**Entry by Donation in aid of the
RNLI**

**The RNLI: Saving Lives at
Sea Since 1824!**



DIARY DATES – JULY 2024

July

Wed	3	6.30pm	<i>Inspired to Read Book Club (BC)</i>
Thurs	4	2-4pm	Craft & Cake (in church)
Fri	5		Frome Festival begins – see p 4-5
Sat	6	9.00am	United Prayer at St John's
Sun	7	11am-2pm	Café & Mini Market (SJ)
Sat	13	10.30am	Open Doors
		10.30am	Sacristy team meet
Tues	16	7.00pm	PCC Meeting
Thurs	18	10am-1pm	Selwood School Leavers Service
		2pm-4pm	Craft & Cake (in church)
Sat	20	10.00am	Fundraising Meeting
Sun	21	4.00pm	Tea Time @ St John's
Wed	24	9.15am	St John's School end of term service
Fri	26	2pm	Hospital Service
Tue	30	11am	Julian meeting (SJ)
Wed	31	10.30am	Coffee Morning in Christine's garden

August

Sun	4	11am-2pm	Café & Mini Market (SJ)
Wed	7	6.30pm	<i>Inspired to Read Book Club (BC)</i>

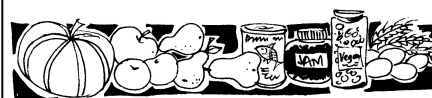
Summer 2024

St John's Café and Mini Markets - 11am to 2pm

Sunday 7th July, Sunday 4th August

All offers of help welcome!

Alongside the cafe and stalls, we also offer quiet areas in our church for visitors - somewhere to rest awhile, away from the busyness of the day.



My 'Desert Island' Discs

I doubt if the BBC will ever ask me to appear on *Desert Island Discs*. But that hasn't stopped me, from time to time, thinking about what eight recordings I would like on a deserted island. Here is what I would choose. It is dominated by classical or religious music. I start with two religious works.

1. Bach – Cantata no 67. 'Hold in Affection Jesus Christ'

This was written for the Sunday after Easter 1725, but its message is timeless: it tells the story in music of the appearance of Jesus to his disciples after his resurrection. The disciples are all mixed up: some still doubt what they see: *'faith tells me that my saviour lives, yet doubt within my soul still strives'*: Jesus calms their worries by saying *'Peace be with us'*. However, even after 80+ years of going to church, I still feel some doubts and Bach consoles me that others feel them too. There is an excellent recording with Kathleen Ferrier, the great English contralto who died young.

2. Yr Utgorn – The Trumpet

I grew up in Wales and learned many Welsh hymns. I would need to be reminded of them on my island. This is one of the most stirring of them, best sung in a large choir with a trumpet and organ accompaniment. In contrast to the Bach, it is full of confidence: no doubts as you lose yourself in singing of how God sent his son to save *'frail man'* and how *'The trumpet sounds a clear release for me Thro' Christ's atoning death on Calvary'*. I would like to have a video of a full Welsh chapel choir.

3. Britten – War Requiem 'What Passing Bells'

This is probably the most important piece of classical music written in my lifetime. Britten mixes the poems of Wilfred Owen with the Latin Mass to create a very moving denunciation of war and its aftermath. I particularly replay the tenor setting of the words of the Owen sonnet *'What passing bells for those who die as cattle'* contrasting the solemn funeral rites with the reality of death through explosions and machine gun fire. This record is as valid today, with Gaza and Ukraine in the



news, as when the poems were first written in 1917 or when I first heard the Requiem in 1962.

4. Mozart – 'Keggelstat' Trio for Piano, Clarinet and Viola

My next two recordings are of pieces involving the piano that I have tried to play myself. 'Keggelstat' is the German word for skittle alley, and Mozart is supposed to have written this piece, presumably in his head, when watching others playing skittles. I first met it in 1989, at a music summer school in Winchester, when I was grouped with a viola player and a clarinetist and given this trio to rehearse during the week. After many false starts, we played it well enough, although probably at two-thirds of the speed we should have, and each of us had a different interpretation of the crazy *turn* – a musical decoration – in the opening and many succeeding bars.

5. Schubert – Rondo from his A Major Piano Sonata D.959

I have to take a piano sonata to my island, but rather than the usual Mozart or Beethoven ones, my preference is for one by Schubert. This Rondo is really a Theme and variations using a theme that Schubert had used in an earlier sonata. Its 14 pages explore every possible way of looking at what is essentially a simple theme, slowing it down, speeding it up, moving from right hand to left, or hiding it in an inner part. My piano skills only allow me to play it at three-quarter speed, so it will be good to hear it played properly, by someone like Andras Schiff.

6. Wagner – Walter's Prize Song from The Mastersingers of Nuremburg

I would need to take an opera to my island, preferably in video format. I have chosen this one because of its massive staging, taking over four hours, its blend of seriousness and comedy and the fact that music is such a key component of the story. The opera tells of a singing competition, in which competitors vie with each other, using fair means and foul. The prize is not only membership of the Master Singers Guild but also the chance to marry the beautiful daughter of one of the current masters. Luckily the winner, Walter, is someone



she has already fallen in love with, and his prize song tells of his love for her.

7. Schubert: Trio for Soprano, clarinet, piano, 'Shepherd on the Rocks'

This was one of his last pieces. It sets to music a poem about a shepherd who spends long periods with his sheep, living alone in a hut high in the mountains. He is mostly melancholy but looks forward to the Spring when he can be free to travel away from his work. The music reflects these different moods and ends with a jolly romp of all three players to recognise the joyful freedom that lies ahead when Spring comes.

8. Under Milk Wood

My life is not all music. I shall need the sound of the spoken human voice to break into my solitude. This is best done by listening to a play: there are countless plays by the greats; Shakespeare, Molière, Schiller: but I need something more modern and more earthy. I could have chosen Eliot's ***Murder in the Cathedral*** – 'living and partly living' – or Flecker's ***Hassan*** – 'there lives a prophet who can understand why men were born' – but my final recording is that scurrilous account of a day in a Welsh fishing village, ***Under Milk Wood***, where Dylan Thomas skilfully observes the life and follies of the folk who live around him: Think Frome today.

The book I am allowed would be *Le Morte D'Arthur* with illustrations by Aubrey Beardsley. I have a facsimile copy and love looking through it with its hundreds of illustrations of black and white woodcuts. The object I would take is a garden chair lounger so I could go to sleep without getting sand in my hair.

I hope you have enjoyed reading – and perhaps playing – my choices, eg from YouTube, and I look forward to seeing contributions of others' favourite eight records.

Chris Lewis

Eds: Many thanks to Chris, and do please take up his invitation to submit your choices – we would love to hear them!



Links in a Golden Chain—Part 1

St. Bonaventure

St. Bonaventure was born in Italy in 1221 and went to study in Paris, where one of his teachers was the Englishman Alexander of Hales, whom he followed into the Franciscan Order. His birth name was Giovanni di Fidenza, and he took the name



Bonaventure when he became a friar. He taught and preached in Paris for many years. He was a deep scholar and gained a reputation for addressing the important theological issues of his day. In 1257 he was elected leader of his Order. He declined the request to become Archbishop of York, but later accepted the post of cardinal Bishop of Albano. In this capacity he took part in the Council of Lyons in 1274, which attempted to bring about a reconciliation between the Greek and Latin churches. This did not succeed and Bonaventure died in the same year and was buried at Lyons.

He is remembered for personal holiness as well as scholarship. When legates came to him with his cardinal's hat, he is alleged to have asked them to hang it on a nearby tree, as he was washing dishes and his hands wet and greasy. He was made a saint in 1482, and later known as the Seraphic Doctor because of his contributions to Christian thought. He wrote a biography of St. Francis of Assisi and many important works on philosophy, theology and mysticism.

Two of his most important texts are available in English translation. The first, *The Soul's Journey into God*, reminded his readers of the difficulties for us as limited human beings to approach the fullness of the glory of God. He wrote "Our mind, accustomed to the darkness of beings and the images of the things of sense, when it glimpses the light of the Supreme being, seems to itself to see nothing. It does not realise that this very darkness is the supreme illumination of our mind, just as when the eye sees pure light, it

seems to itself to see nothing.” But he also saw the power of human reason through which we could apprehend God’s glory in all of creation.

The second text is called *Lignum Vitae – The Tree of Life*. The events recorded in the Gospel that mark the life of Christ are seen as branches on the tree that is the Lord himself. The symbol is more potent as we realise that the tree of the cross is both the instrument of death and the means of eternal life. The branches of the tree are depicted as bearing blossoms which are the virtues that mark the Christian life: humility, piety, patience, constancy and justice.

In the issues that follow I shall describe further exemplars of the spiritual life who have been a part of the golden chain from the ancient world to more recent times.

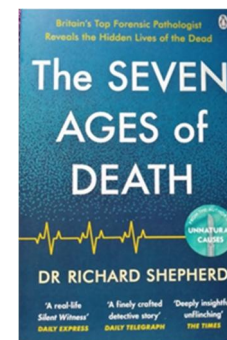
Kevin Tingay

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Inspired to Read *The Seven Ages of Death* by Dr Richard Shepherd



When we were planning which books we would read in the Inspired to Read Book Club this year, we decided that it would be good to include a non-fiction book, so I somewhat tentatively suggested this one: *The Seven Ages of Death* by Dr Richard Shepherd. I was cautious about suggesting it as I wasn’t sure if everyone would be comfortable reading a book that is (as you might have guessed by the title) essentially about death, but with the support of Janet, who had also read the book when it first came out and found it interesting, it was selected for our June meeting.

About the Author

Dr Richard Shepherd is the country’s leading forensic pathologist, a real life Dr Sam Ryan if you are a fan of *Silent Witness*. Shepherd qualified as a forensic pathologist in 1987 and has been involved in some very high profile cases over the years, including the Hungerford Massacre (1987); Princess Diana (1997); 9/11; and Dr David Kelly (2003).

From the back cover

In each of his 23,000 post-mortems, Dr Richard Shepherd, our foremost medical detective, has uncovered the secrets not only of how people have died but also of how they have lived.

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A short extract

When I looked at Fergusson Bell, I could see there was neglect here – although curiously it was evidenced only in his nappy rash. But when I looked at his pallor and swollen abdomen, I was fairly sure that here was a congenital problem. Could it have been caused by a virus his mother had caught? Some errant gene? Or perhaps a mistake that had occurred as his cells multiplied in the womb? Whatever it was, it had revealed itself at an age when most babies are being weaned.

This is a remarkable book – part personal memoir, part anatomical handbook and part crime detection. At the front of the book is Shakespeare's Seven Ages of Man (*As You Like It*, Act 2, Scene 7) and each section of the book investigates how people have died at the different stages of their life: The infant, mewling and puking in the nurse's arms ... the whining schoolboy ... etc through to the last scene of all ... second childishness and mere oblivion. Some of the cases are distressing, but Shepherd writes sensitively and compassionately.

As he explores the cause of death in each instance he explains his procedures, giving insight into the workings of the human body – who knew that our insides could be so colourful? He explains how our organs display the wear and tear of our daily lives as he pieces together the clues that will enable him to solve the mystery of the death: the physical effects of carbon monoxide poisoning, the complex procedure of conception that, if just one tiny thing goes wrong can lead to tragic metabolic failure, and just what is the effect of that extra glass of wine in the evening on our livers? He also describes his interactions with next of kin, and with investigating police officers, many of whom seem more interested in apportioning blame than accepting that it might have been a tragic error. We learn how much information can be gleaned from the scene of crime – the position of a child's body, and even the evidence obtained from the contents of her "running away" bag.

In most of his cases Shepherd has gone to great lengths to anonymise his subjects, but there were some particularly high-profile deaths of which it was impossible to hide the identity of the victim. One such was the death of Dr David Kelly, advisor to the government over the

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“weapons of mass destruction” scandal. It was heart-breaking to read the account of how his life’s work and reputation were disregarded as he became a scapegoat in a governmental inquiry. He also relates cases of people close to him, reflecting on how our life choices can sometimes go badly wrong.

The book provoked some lively discussion, but we all agreed that the difficult material was written with a deep love for humanity; the facts were presented in a way that was easy for a non-medically trained person to understand, and throughout it all there was a sense of the author’s own humility; he did not claim to have all the answers and admitted that there was almost always some element of doubt. Some members of our group have been inspired to read his other book: *Unnatural Causes*, which I understand is more of a biographical memoir – it is certainly on my summer reading list!

Future meetings:

Wednesday 3rd July - short stories, in particular the writings of Daphne du Maurier, Saki, Alice Monro and Kate Atkinson’s whose most recent volume is *Normal rules don’t apply* – I have been unable to put down!

Wednesday 7th August - Book: *One night in winter* by Simon Sebag Montefiore: winner of the political fiction book of the year 2014

For more information about the book group please contact Rosemary rosemarymccormick@hotmail.com **Rosemary McCormick**



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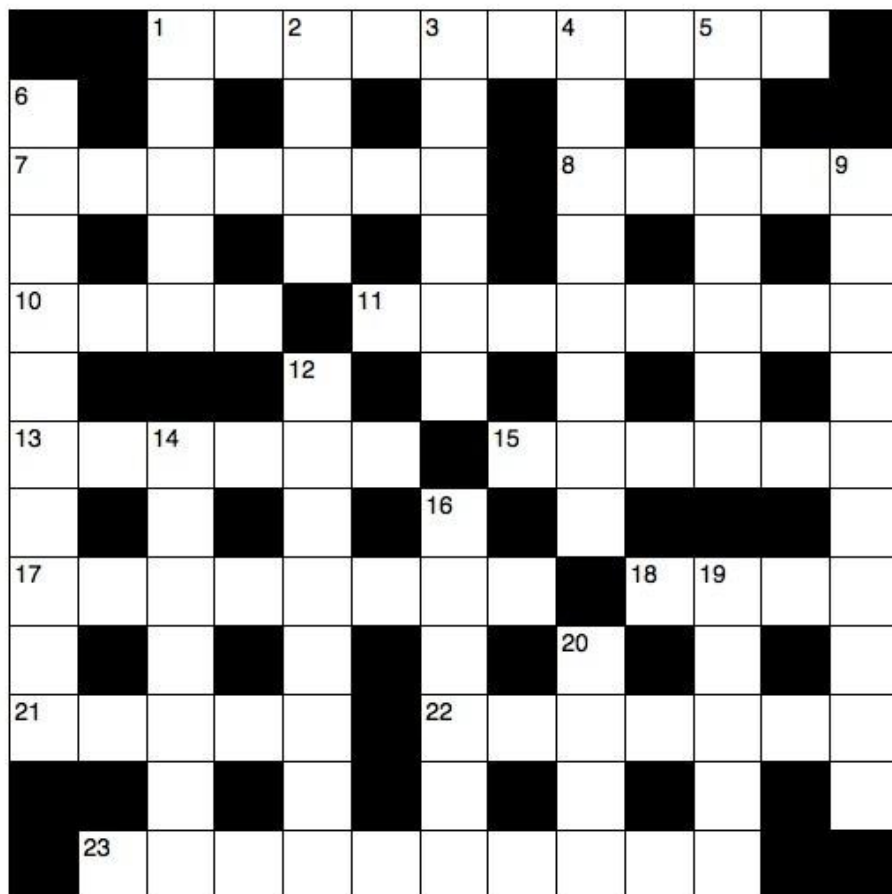
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JULY CROSSWORD



Across

- 1 Relating to the Jewish day of rest (10)
- 7 Point of view (Matthew 22:17) (7)
- 8 20th-century Brethren philanthropist whose construction company became one of the UK's biggest, Sir John — (5)
- 10 Girl's name (4)
- 11 Peter was accused of being one in the courtyard of the high priest's house (Luke 22:59) (8)

- 13 The fifth of the 'seven churches' (Revelation 3:1–6) (6)
- 15 'Now the famine was — in Samaria' (1 Kings 18:2) (6)
- 17 Banned by the seventh Commandment (Exodus 20:14) (8)
- 18 Insect most closely associated with itching (1 Samuel 24:14) (4)
- 21 Bantu tribe which gives its name to tiny landlocked country in southern Africa (5)
- 22 Familiar material in churches that use an overhead projector (7)
- 23 Last book of the Bible (10)

Down

- 1 The young David's favourite weapon (1 Samuel 17:40) (5)
- 2 'Your vats will — over with new wine' (Proverbs 3:10) (4)
- 3 Once yearly (Exodus 30:10) (6)
- 4 Milled it (anag.) (3-5)
- 5 Region north of Damascus of which Lysanias was tetrarch (Luke 3:1) (7)
- 6 Comes between Philippians and 1 Thessalonians (10)
- 9 Lake where the first disciples were called (Luke 5:1–11) (10)
- 12 Abusive outburst (8)
- 14 Are loud (anag.) (7)
- 16 Printing errors (6)
- 19 'Take my yoke upon you and — from me' (Matthew 11:29) (5)
- 20 Jacob's third son (Genesis 29:34) (4)

Answers to the crossword in the June magazine

ACROSS: 1, Ambush. 4, School. 8, Tired. 9, Famines. 10, Citadel. 11, Endor. 12, Atonement. 17, Avert. 19, Oracles. 21, Married. 22, Lance. 23, Rhythm. 24, Hyssop. DOWN: 1, Attach. 2, Biretta. 3, Sided. 5, Compete. 6, Owned. 7, Lustre. 9, Falsehood. 13, Ostrich. 14, Talents. 15, Farmer. 16, Asleep. 18, Early. 20, Alley.

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The Bible version used in this crossword is the NIV.

WORD SEARCH - Sea Sunday - 14th July

Christian churches remember, pray and give thanks for the more than 1.5 million merchant seafarers worldwide. If seafarers seem irrelevant to your daily life, think again: 90 per cent of everything you buy in the shops comes to you by sea. Merchant seafarers quite literally keep our global economy afloat. Yet it is a tough life, far from loved ones. Merchant ships are harsh working environments, never mind the threat of piracy or even shipwreck. To help the seafarers, a worldwide network of port chaplains has sprung up. They offer hospitality and friendship, as well as practical, emotional and spiritual support, providing almost a 'home from home' in hundreds of ports, in more than 50 countries.

July
Sea
Sunday
Remember
Pray
Give
Thanks
Merchant
Seafarers
Daily
Shops
Economy
Afloat
Harsh
Working
Environments
Piracy
Shipwreck
Hundreds
Global
Port
Chaplains
Hospitality
Friendship
Practical

M	S	E	A	D	E	Y	L	I	E	C	O	W	H
R	P	E	L	H	N	Y	C	N	H	N	L	O	T
A	O	L	A	C	I	T	C	A	R	P	H	R	N
T	H	R	B	S	H	I	P	W	R	E	C	K	A
V	S	S	O	R	Y	L	I	A	D	I	Y	I	H
H	E	I	L	U	A	A	Y	A	A	P	N	C	
C	A	M	G	I	H	T	D	S	D	H	Y	G	R
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L	E	N	V	I	R	O	N	M	E	N	T	S	N
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A	S	H	A	A	D	H	E	M	J	H	I	T	I
T	H	A	N	K	S	R	Y	L	U	J	E	G	R



JULY SUDOKU

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3			5					2
		5						

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YOUR MAGAZINE TEAM

Editors: Mandy Crook, Karolyn Curle

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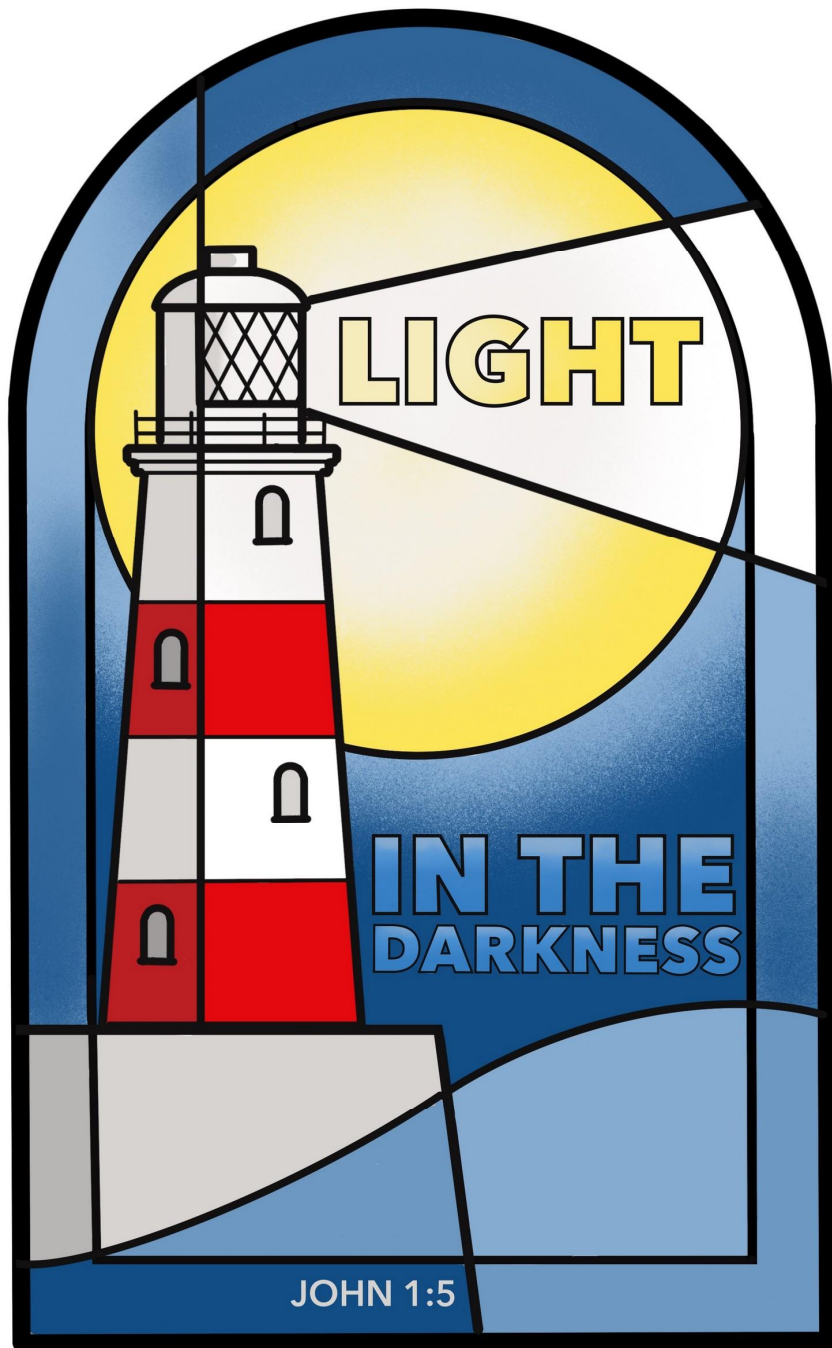
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Date/Week	Services	Readings	Duties for the 9.45am service at SJ				
			Readers	Prayers	Sidespersons	Chalice	Sacristy
Sunday 7 July Sixth after Trinity	8.45am Zoom Service <u>9.45am Holy Communion</u>	2 Samuel 5.1-5, 9-10 2 Corinthians 12.2-10 Mark 6.1-13	S Keyes N McCormick	A Crook	G Fone R Gosling	J Davies	P Connnew
Sunday 14 July Seventh after Trinity	8.45am Zoom Service <u>9.45am Holy Communion</u>	2 Samuel 6.1-5, 12b-19 Ephesians 1.3-14 Mark 6.14-29	The Hudsons B Essex	J Caudwell	J Bruges C Holland	A Crook	M Veakins M Smitherman
Sunday 21 July Eighth after Trinity	8.45am Zoom Service <u>9.45am Holy Communion</u>	2 Samuel 7.1-14a Ephesians 2.11- end Mark 6.30-34, 53- end	R McCormick S Caden	A Henderson	J Davies M Veakins	M Smitherman	R & N McCormick
Sunday 28 July Ninth after Trinity	8.45am Zoom Service <u>9.45am Holy Communion</u>	2 Samuel 11.1-15 Ephesians 3.14- end John 6.1-21	C Holland E Gilbert	L Bushell	M Smitherman B Essex	C Holland	P Connnew
Sunday 4 August Tenth after Trinity	8.45am Zoom Service <u>9.45am Holy Communion</u>	2 Samuel 11.26-12.13a Ephesians 4.1-16 John 6.24-35	T Bushell S Smith	J Bruges	G Fone R Gosling	J Davies	M Veakins M Smitherman
Vicar: Vacancy Reader: Janet Caudwell		Sun 21st Tea Time at St John's Tues 30th - Julian meeting at 11am					



LIGHT

IN THE
DARKNESS

JOHN 1:5