

WHEATLEY URC NEWSLETTER



July & August 2023

Covering Thoughts

As I was preparing prayers for a service based on Hosea I came across this from Steve Garnaas-Holmes and thought that I would share it with you.

“Go and learn what this means, I desire mercy, not sacrifice” (Matthew 9v13 (quoting Hosea 6v6))

There are two religions in the world: the religion of being right and the religion of being loving.

They are incompatible. Get it right and you may hurt someone. Love and you may break a rule.

We are always practising one or the other every moment, always choosing. This is Jesus' faith in a nutshell: not religious orthodoxy but loving behaviour. Not being right but being loving.

I know this, and believe it deeply. Yet Jesus' words stick: “Go and learn” I'm not there yet. I'm still right, and proud of it. Still learning, still learning.

I immediately felt the challenge of this, not from the position of religious discussion but in daily life. The easiest response to someone who makes a mistake is to put them right. It takes much more thought and consideration either to overlook their mistake or if necessary to quietly rectify it without them knowing.

I, like Steve am still learning and this week in particular has been a great challenge. How does one react to a scammer? Is there any way to build a bridge and make things right?

The cover shows one of my recent paintings which I believe will have arrived in Arizona by the time this newsletter is published. I just hope that it brings someone pleasure rather than being thrown in a bin.

Christine

Pastoral Letter

I had forgotten how magnificent Ely cathedral was.



It was a hot June day, and I was in the city for a book talk. Although I'd spent many weekends in Ely when I was training for the ministry in the 1980s, it is many years since I'd visited.

The monastery had been founded by Etheldreda in AD 673 though the current building dates from a mere 1083. Here was a chance to revisit precious memories, in this ancient place.

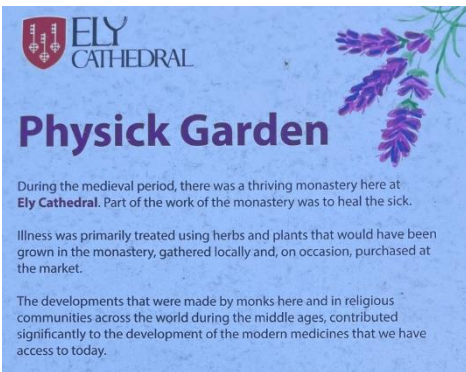
I'd thought I might find a quiet spot to sit inside; after all, this was early in the morning - too early for visitors. But not for pupils from the King's School, apparently. First a couple of footsteps, then more, then a stampede, and the place was filled by the buzz of energetic sixth formers. They must have come to practice the hymns for the end of year worship, as the glorious sound of *'Praise to the holiest in the height'* soon sounded from the grand organ. I decided it would be better to leave them to it and find a quiet space in the grounds instead.

And it was walking in the grounds that I came across the Physick Garden.

In medieval times, the monastery grew medicinal plants and was a centre for healing. Like other monasteries and convents, these were the forerunner of our hospitals, with monks and nuns and their lay assistants gaining important skills and knowledge that helped those in need of treatment.

The monasteries are part of our inheritance, and remain a model for a distinctive approach to faith we continue today: to see clearly those needs that arise and are not yet being met (at local, national and international level), and

then quietly to commit to meeting these needs. Just as early hospitals, schools and hospices grew from Christian communities, so do we seek to continue this 'clear seeing' of need.



The point about the monastic model is this: help is offered not in the hope that people will be converted to faith or join the community itself. The purpose of Memory Cafe, of Lunch Clubs, of assisting the Falcon school in Zimbabwe, of Christian Aid, of Sunday Teas and the Pulse Youth Club, the Friday Hangout or the Games Cafe is to provide opportunities for connection - for

connection sustains life. They represent a community in its outward facing role - identifying needs that were not being provided by anyone else, seeking to meet the need as best it can, even when it hurts to do so.

And like the ancient monastic communities, we seek the resources to do this through regular worship, prayer, meditation, spiritual movement, house groups, and pastoral visiting. Like the medieval monastic communities, we receive amazing support from an unseen army of helpers who may not wish to take part in the worship or become members, yet, as fellow travellers, support the community in quiet but extraordinarily compassionate ways.



So thank you, Kings School Ely Sixth formers, for encouraging me outside to see the Physick garden, for the model of the monastery garden healing the sick without condition, and for the reminder that the monastic tradition is worth preserving.

Mark Williams

Prayers

Please remember in your prayers the members in Elaine Matejtschuk, pastoral group: Catherine & David Hughes, Pauline & Chris Shelley, Allison Towner, Martin & Emma Jee, Felicity & Jasper, Annette Wright, Alice Halliday and Liz & Tony Barry.

Also remember members of the Youth & Families Ministry Team: Malcolm Benson, Chris Shelley, Keith Kidd, Mark Williams and Phyllis Williams.

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What's On – Dates for your Diaries

Weekly

		Contact
Monday 9.00	Mindfulness Sitting Group	Mark Williams jmarkgwilliams@gmail.com
Thursday 9.00	Mindfulness Sitting Group	Mark Williams
Friday 10am	Table Tennis	Val Farmer val_farmer40@hotmail.com

Monthly

Alternate Mondays	Not So Young Club July 3 rd , 17 th , 31 st , August 14 th	Frances Simpson frances_simpson@icloud.com
1st Sunday	Tea, 2.30 – 4pm	Ann Bettess annsgoog@gmail.com
1st Thursday	Meditation 10 - 10.30am	Liz Barry lizbarry26@gmail.com
1 st Thursday	Coffee Morning 10.30am	
2nd Thursday	Memory Cafe 10 – 12.30pm	Laurence Devlin laurencelalanne99@gmail.com
2nd Tuesday	Lunch Club	Laurence Devlin
3 rd Tuesday	Lunch Club	Catherine Harding hardings64@btinternet.com

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Thame-Sinaia
Friendship Association
invites you to:

**ROMANIAN FOOD, WINE &
ARTISAN FAIR**

**WHEN - Saturday 1st July
9:30-16:30**

WHERE - Thame Town Hall

FREE ENTRY



More information via:

www.facebook.com/thamesinaia
www.instagram.com/thame.sinaia
thame.sinaia@gmail.com



Do come and join this cultural event in Thame – it promises to be great fun. The Friendship Association exists to encourage and promote friendship, education and knowledge about each other's culture, language and tradition and to facilitate exchanges between the citizens of Thame and Sinaia and their surrounding areas.

Ellen Webster

The River Danube

Many of you know that I recently returned from an Interrail trip around central Europe. Through this area flows the mighty Danube river which I had, of course, expected to be “Blue”, although to me it seemed more of a mossy green, albeit very impressive in width and power.

A sign placed along the bank near this location* in Slovakia caught my eye, so I quote it here for you to ponder:



The Danube is the longest river in the European Union. From its source in the Black Forest in Germany, the Danube flows through ten European countries before it reaches the Black Sea. It connects several of Europe’s most prominent cities, passing through 2850 kilometres of beautiful and dramatic landscapes.

The river joins the international family of Sri Chinmoy Peace-Blossoms, of which there are more than 800 significant sites around the world. These include places of spectacular beauty and inspiration, and wonders of the world, some of which are included in the UNESCO World Heritage List. All these Peace-Blossom sites are dedicated to peace, and serve to remind us of the eternal and precious ideal which peace embodies.

“Peace does not mean the absence of war.

Peace means the presence of harmony, love, oneness and satisfaction.

Peace means a flood of love in the world-family.”

-SRI CHINMOY

*the photo shows the ruins of Devin castle at the confluence of the Danube and the Morava rivers.

Ellen Webster

Blended Service Rotas for July 2023

Date	Worship Leader	Vestry	Welcomer	Door Steward	Reader	Prayers
2nd	H.C. Rev Colin Thompson	Elaine Matejtschuk	Malcolm Benson	Marian Mole	Ann Gajda	Robert Harding
9th	Richard Bainbridge	Chris Shelley	Ellen Webster	Barbara Joiner	Catherine Harding	Liz Barry
16th	Donald Norwood	Ann Gajda	Robert Harding	Ann Hardiman	Chris Shelley	Marian Mole
23rd	Pauline Main	Charles Bennett	Moira Watson	Pauline Shelley	Robert Harding	Ellen Webster
30th	Mark Williams	Malcolm Benson	Chris Shelley	Angela Holdaway		

Common Lectionary Readings July 2023

Date	July 2nd	July 9th	July 16th	July 23rd	July 30th
First Reading	Jeremiah 28: 5-9	Zechariah 9: 9-12	Isaiah 55: 10-13	Isaiah 44: 6-8	1 Kings 3: 5-12
Psalms	Psalms 89: 1-4 & 15-18	Psalms 145: 8-14	Psalms 65: 9-13	Psalms 86: 11-17	Psalms 119: 129-136
New Testament	Romans 6: 12-23	Romans 7: 1-25a	Romans 8 : 1-11	Romans 8: 12-25	Romans : 8: 26-39
Gospel	Matthew 10: 40-42	Matthew 11: 16-19 & 25-30	Matthew 1 3: 1-9 & 18-23	Matthew 13: 24-30 & 36-43	Matthew 13: 31-33 & 44-52

July 2nd: Missionaries often speak of receiving amazing hospitality from poor people in the countries where they have gone as strangers.

July 9th: Life is full of pressures and the church can add to these with rotas and other demands.

July 16th: The parable of the Sower [or is it the soils] is a retelling of a familiar story with a kingdom edge.

July 23rd: Are we certain that we know what is a weed and what is a plant - weeds may be plants in the wrong place

July 30th: Isaac Newton forbade the South Sea Bubble to be mentioned in his presence. He invested his fortune in this enterprise and lost the lot.

Blended Service Rotas for August 2023

Date	Worship Leader	Vestry	Welcomer	Door Steward	Reader	Prayers
6th	H.C. Rev Colin Thompson	Ellen Webster	Ann Gadja	Bobbie Stormont	Barbara Joiner	Ann Bettess
13th	Richard Bainbridge	Malcolm Benson	Elaine Matejtschuk	Rob Holdaway	Angela Holdaway	Malcolm Benson
20th	Cara Heafey	Robert Harding	Charles Bennett	Tom Goss	Moira Watson	Barbara Joiner
27th	Mark Williams	Moira Watson	Robert Harding	Peter Devlin		

Common Lectionary Readings August 2023

Date	August 6th	August 13th	August 20th	August 27 th
First Reading	Isaiah 55: 1-5	Kings 19: 9-18	Isaiah 56: 1-8	Isaiah 51: 1-6
Psalm	Psalm 145: 8-9 & 14-21	Psalm 85: 8-13	Psalm 67	Psalm 138
New Testament	Romans 9: 1-5	Romans 10: 5-15	Romans 11: 1-2a & 29-32	Romans 12: 1-8
Gospel	Matthew 14: 13-21	Matthew 14: 22-33	Matthew 15: 2-28	Matthew 16: 13-20

August 6th: Jesus heals a queue of people - he listens to anxieties - he arranges things - sounds like the larder.

August 13th: 'We are afraid of silence - we avoid spending a moment with ourselves - we avoid the mirror' [Bonhoeffer].

August 20th: Rev Sonia Hicks, the first black Methodist President tells the story of how her aunt came from Jamaica and was refused entry to the local Methodist Church - it was a long time ago but we should never be complacent.

August 27th: Charlotte, Emily and Anne Bronte did not use their real names at first but published under Currer, Ellis and Acton Bell. Let us hope the kingdom allows us to be ourselves.

Richard Bainbridge

Falcon School - Big 'Thank You'!

from these smiling Falcon boys



Yes, We Did It!

Congratulations everyone, with all your help we achieved our target, by mid-June, of raising **£1150** this year to replace this old hut (photo below) with a customised timber 2 bedroom cabin for the Falcon new 7 Grade teacher (and his family!)

Wilbert is leaving for Zimbabwe early July when he will oversee the installation of the cabin and keep us updated with progress.

And we actually exceeded our target by £200 which we have kept back to go towards the next school improvement priority project. Wilbert will be discussing this project with school staff during his visit.



Thank you once again!

Your Care For The World Team

'The Summer Day'



*'Tell me, what is it you plan to do
with your one wild and precious life?'*

From 'The Summer Day' by Mary Oliver (1935-2019). You can listen to Mary Oliver reading her poem here;

<https://nationalpoetryday.co.uk/poem/the-summer-day/>

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Deadline

Wednesday 16th August is the deadline for the September Newsletter. Please send copy to: newsletter@wheatleyurc.org.uk . Paper copy can be given to Debi Kidd. Please type it in Calibri font size 11 & no capitalized headings.

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Disclaimer

The Editors welcome letters, articles and announcements from individuals and organisations, but reserve the right to publish or not.



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CHURCH CONTACTS

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