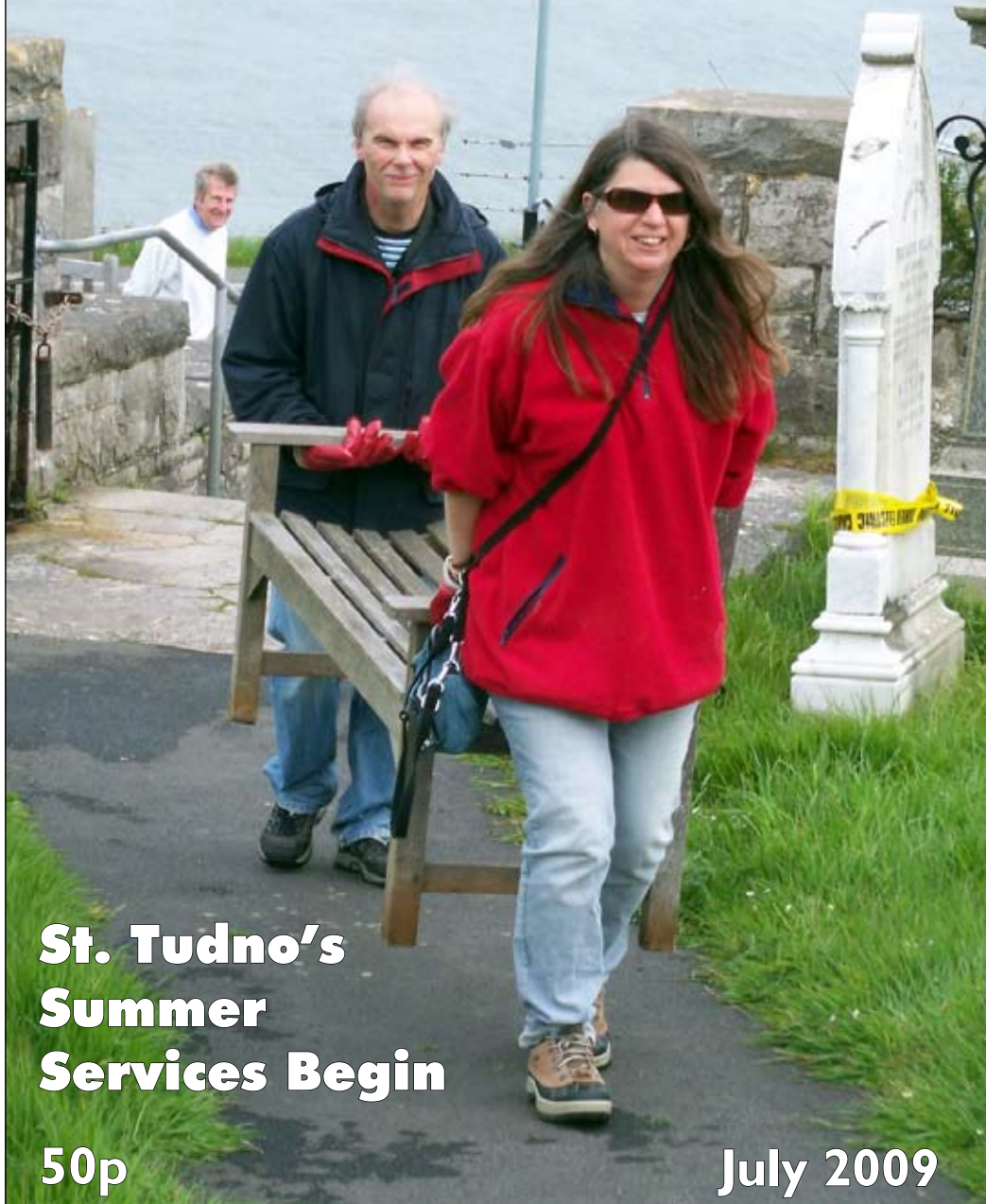


LLANDUDNO

Cylchgrawn Plwyf

Parish Magazine



**St. Tudno's
Summer
Services Begin**

50p

July 2009

Services

Holy Trinity Church, Mostyn Street

Sundays

- 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
- 10.30 am Sung Eucharist (1st, 3rd, 4th
& 5th Sundays)
- Matins followed by
shortened Eucharist (2nd
Sunday)
- 5.00 pm Evening Prayer
- 6.00 pm Exploring Worship - in
Church Hall (2nd Sunday
unless notified otherwise)

Weekdays

- 8.30 am Morning Prayer (Tue, Wed
& Thurs)
- Holy Eucharist with
Morning Prayer (Fri)
- 9.00 am Holy Eucharist (Wed)
- 11.00 am Holy Eucharist (Thurs &
Major Saints' Days)
- Holy Eucharist in Welsh
(Sat)
- 5.00 pm Evening Prayer (Tue, Wed,
Thurs & Fri)



Plwyf Llandudno
Parish of Llandudno

St. Tudno's Church Great Orme

- 9.00 am Morning Prayer (Sat)
- 11.00 am Open Air Service (Sun
from end of May to end of
September)
- On the first Sunday of
each month, the service is
followed by a shortened
Eucharist in the church.

The pattern of Sunday and Weekday services sometimes changes. Please check the calendar in each month's magazine and the weekly bulletin.

The Rector is in Holy Trinity church on most Saturday mornings from 11.30 - 12.00 to see parishioners on any matter – for confessions, spiritual guidance, the booking of baptisms or weddings etc.

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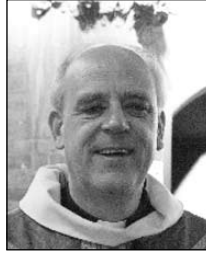
The deadline for copy for any edition is the 7th of the previous month. Please leave copy in box near pulpit in Holy Trinity Church or e-mail:

editor@llandudno-parish.org.uk

Copy may be on disk, printed or handwritten.

From the Rectory

Do you remember your Confirmation? I can remember very little about mine! I was Confirmed in 1964, at the age of 12, in the suburban north London parish church where I sung as a choirboy. The bishop was a rather elderly man, presumably a retired Bishop helping out rather than one of the serving bishops of the diocese of London at the time. I can't remember anything else about the service at all.



What I do remember vividly is taking the whole thing very seriously indeed and feeling that I really had received a gift from God. For several days I remember being on a kind of spiritual 'high' and feeling rather holy. Inevitably the feeling wore off somewhat when the reality of ordinary daily life set in again! But looking back at my Confirmation, what was really important was not what I had felt at the time, but the reality of the strengthening in the Holy Spirit, which was the inward gift I had received in the sacrament, something which would always be a part of my life, and a gift that would always be there to be used.

This month Bishop Andrew comes to Holy Trinity church to Confirm five candidates from our parish. I hope that they will all experience the warmth of the Holy Spirit as I did at my Confirma-

tion 45 years ago. But, much more importantly, I trust that however they happen to feel at the time of their Confirmation, that they really will appreciate the inner reality of what has happened to them. When the Bishop lays his

hands on the head of a candidate for Confirmation we believe that the Spirit of God, first given to them at Baptism, is renewed or stirred up for the living of a committed Christian life as a member of the Church of God. The word 'confirmed' means 'to be made strong' and we certainly need spiritual strength to live a real Christian life in our world. It can be hard enough anyway, but without the strengthening power of the Holy Spirit it would be impossible.

There are many reasons for coming to the Confirmation service on Sunday July 5th apart from the normal commitment to be present at Sunday worship in any case. We need to be there to greet our Bishop – to be present when our father in God visits our parish; we should be present support the candidates as they make this life-commitment to Christ and begin their lives as communicant members of the Church; and in being present at a Confirmation once again we have the opportunity to think about what our own Confirmation means to us. It doesn't really matter what we actually

remember (or like me have forgotten) about our Confirmation day because what we received then is a continuing part of our life today. We have the gifts of the spirit within us to enable us to go on living as faithful servants of Christ. So when we have the opportunity to attend a Confirmation service we can renew our own commitment and ask

God to stir up within us once again the sevenfold gift of the spirit to strengthen our lives in Christ.

Meanwhile, please pray for Barbara, Jasmine, Joyce, Melissa, and Tryphena, as they prepare for their special day on Sunday July 5th.

Fr John

News and Notices

Cytûn

In July the churches of Cytûn Llandudno will be saying farewell to the Revd Nick Sissons, Minister at St. David's Methodist Church, Craig y Don. Nick has made a tremendous contribution to the life of Cytûn and to the churches in Llandudno and district generally during his time at St David's. He served a term as President and has initiated or encouraged many initiatives over the years. In the last couple of years he has taken a leading role in the dialogue between the Conwy County Cytûn and the local Islamic community.

Nick has been a tower of strength and a loyal friend to all the members of the local clergy fraternal and we will all miss him very much. Luckily Nick is not moving very far away as he is to be Chaplain at Rydal School in Colwyn Bay – so we will probably continue to see him from time to time. We thank him for his commitment and friendship

and wish him well in his new post.

Fr John

St. Tudno's

Many thanks to everyone who took part in the working party on 16 May, it was definitely a case of 'many hands make light work.' With the help of parishioners and Friends of St. Tudno's Church we were able to: clear litter, set out the benches, clean out the sheds, put surplus cushions into storage and so release more storage space, clean the silver, brasses and vases, enjoy refreshments and offer them to visitors and protect some of the plants in the churchyard. The last job may need a bit of explanation.

During the spring there were a lot of cowslips in flower in the churchyard and quite a few native bluebells, so to enable them to set seed they needed protection during the grass cutting



Two members of St. Tudno's working party.

time. The main clumps were therefore marked with canes and tape and Tim, who cuts the grass, very kindly left these areas uncut (and a few more patches which he spotted). In the late summer, Tim will also be leaving the ragwort plants, to allow the cinnabar moth caterpillars to feed on them. In addition to protecting these specific plants, the grass is cut in sections and this seems to be quite a good compromise between safety, tidiness and conservation.

On St. Tudno's Day, Friday 5 June, 10

people made the pilgrimage from Holy Trinity to St. Tudno's and after the Eucharist service 14 made the pilgrimage to St. Tudno's Well. We were blessed with beautiful weather and the tadpoles were again in attendance at the well. Many thanks to the landowners for their kind permission to visit St. Tudno's Well.

On Saturday 6 June we were delighted to welcome Bishop Andrew and the Deputy Mayor and her consort, Councillor Anne Yates and Mr. Yates, to St. Tudno's for a further celebration of St.



St. Tudno's-tide images. This page: The pilgrims who walked from Holy Trinity to St. Tudno's. Opposite top: At St. Tudno's well. Opposite bottom left: Bishop Andrew in St. Tudno's. Opposite bottom right: Councillor Ann Yates, the Deputy Mayor and consort.



Tudno's Day. This seemed a fitting occasion for Bishop Andrew's first official visit to the parish and Councillor Yates' first engagement as Deputy Mayor. However, the weather was rather a contrast to the previous day, with rain and strong winds, so tea and cakes after the Eucharist were served in the church rather than outside. (Jane is now able to say that she is in good company when she has bad weather at St. Tudno's!)

The open air services continue each Sunday at 11.00 am and the taxi to St. Tudno's departs from outside Holy Trinity at 10.30 am. The taxi is provided by the parish and so is free to users but donations towards the expense may be given at St. Tudno's.

There will be a service of Compline by Candlelight at 7.30 pm on Tuesday 7 July. On Tuesday 14 July the Society of Catholic Priests will be holding a Concelebrated Eucharist at 7.00 pm and anyone is welcome to attend.

Christine Jones, Stephanie Searle

Exploring Worship

'Here I am' – three brief words but they yielded a wealth of meaning as the theme for our Exploring Worship Service on Sunday, June 14th.

One by one, members of Trygs, our Parish Youth Group, presented stories and situations from the Bible which ended with the commitment of these words. Then, in lively drama our young

people worked through the meaning of 'Here I am' in our response to others – awareness of their needs, not turning away but giving even at cost to ourselves of our time and attention. In conclusion our confirmation candidates spoke Jesus' words from Matthew's Gospel, Chapter 25 vv 35 and 36. So, in scripture, music and drama, in imagery, psalm and symbolic action, we explored these truths.

Reverend Jane gave a Meditation – as we offer ourselves to Christ, he is always giving himself to us, and amazingly needing us for his work in the world. In words from one of our Eucharistic prayers – 'In Christ, your Son, our life and yours are brought together in a wonderful exchange.'

Anne Hooper led us in prayer reflecting these thoughts and Reverend Jane gave a blessing.

Thank you to our young people, to those who will be confirmed in July, and to those who guided them to bring us this hour of imaginative worship.

Eileen Box

Mothers' Union

On Tuesday 26th March our evening group held a Breakfast Picnic to raise funds for the Mothers' Union Family Life Programme in Uganda. It was lovely to welcome visitors and their families as well as so many of our church family. Rev. Jane explained the objects of the

programme after which we all tucked in to bacon rolls, yoghurts, muffins, juice, coffee etc. Thank you Angela and members of the evening group for arranging such an enjoyable picnic which raised £116.00 for the project.

Barbara Yates

Future Parking at Holy Trinity

It is still hoped that the 'Pay & Display' parking system will be in operation from 1st July, although at the time of writing there is a delay in the delivery of the two machines. However we hope that this will be resolved quickly. The tarmac roadway mentioned in the June magazine has now been completed.

From the beginning of July all those wishing to park are asked to use the entrance and exit at the south side of the Church (ie at the rear) as there will be no through access from the west entrance. The seven parking spaces near the hall entrance will be reserved for the clergy and a small number of church officials with special passes. Apart from clergy and officials' vehicles, the only other cars permitted to enter via the west entrance will be those picking up and dropping off people with walking difficulties and the loading and unloading of goods, equipment etc for activities in the church or hall.

A small number of special passes will be available for people on 'Church business' including coffee morning and afternoon tea helpers, and these will be

available from the clergy and wardens.

When the 'Pay & Display' comes into operation, **there will be no white permit system.**

Any queries please to Stan Whittaker, the Clergy or Wardens.

Parish Parking Committee

Organ Recital by Philip Rushforth

Can I draw your attention to the organ recital for the Llandudno Festival this year which will be given by Philip Rushforth the Director of Music at Chester Cathedral. Philip is rightly considered to be one of the finest organists in the land if not in Europe and it would be nice to welcome him with a good audience. He will be playing works by Bach, John Stanley and Louis Vierne amongst others and the programme which is on Thursday 23rd July will begin at 8.00 pm.

Please - please - please - support this.

Norman

1st Llandudno Guides

Girl Guides from the 1st Llandudno Guide Unit formed a guard of honour for their leader, Marie Lidgett (nee Bugler) and her husband Mark Lidgett as they left Holy Trinity Church in Llandudno after being married by Rev Jane Allen. The Girl Guides meet every week

at the church hall and made the newly wedded couple very proud as they stood outside in the windy weather. There were two flag bearers, Jane McAdam who held the 1st Llandudno Guide flag and Melissa Leonard who

was holding the 1st Wareham Guide Flag, the Guide group which Marie grew up with in Dorset and then went on to help run before she moved to Llandudno.



The Parish Share or 'Quota' for 2009 is £73442

The Quota is the sum of money that we have to contribute to pay the stipends of our clergy. In 2007 and 2008, we partially paid this sum from our reserves. This year the increase is £5030 more than 2008 (7.35% more) and we do not have the reserves.

If you are able, please consider revising your regular giving so the Parish can pay its dues.

If you are a payer of income tax or capital gains tax, please declare regular giving and donations as 'Gift Aid' so HM Customs and Revenue might refund to us the tax you paid on earning your gift.

If you make a donation of £10, the Parish receives an extra £2.50 at no cost to you.

Please contact Stan Whittaker, the Gift Aid Secretary. (Tel: 596796)



Sidespersons

July 5th	Dorothy Trent Angela Pritchard Barbara Yates Joyce Crosby	July 26th	Adele Arrowsmith Cath Lloyd Judith Williams Eira Jones
July 12th	Pat Ridler Doug Pritchard Annabel Jones Eileen Roberts	Aug 2nd	Dorothy Trent Barbara Yates Barbara Scott Joyce Crosby
July 19th	Sandra Davies Mary Rees Stan Whittaker Ray Millington		

Calendar for July

Thurs 2nd	10.00 am	Guild of St. Raphael Meeting
	11.00 am	Eucharist with Ministry of Healing
Fri 3rd		Thomas, Apostle
	11.00 am	Holy Eucharist
Sat 4th	2.30 pm	Wedding
Sun 5th		Trinity 4 (Pentecost 5)
	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist
	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Confirmation Celebrant & Preacher: Bishop Andrew
	6.00 pm	Bishop's Visitation (Cathedral)
Tues 7th	7.30 pm	Compline by Candlelight (St. Tudnos)
Weds 8th	11.00 am	<i>Opening of extension to Hall of Ysgol San Sior by Bishop Andrew</i>
Sat 11th		Benedict, Abbot Friends of St. Tudno's Church visit to Ynys Seiriol (Puffin Island) & Penmon
Sun 12th		Trinity 5 (Pentecost 6) Sea Sunday Services at normal times
	10.30 am	Morning Worship for Sea Sunday
Tues 14th	10.00 am	<i>Julian Meditation Group – Stella Maris</i>
	7.00 pm	Concelebrated Eucharist at St. Tudno's for mem- bers of the Society of Catholic Priests (St Asaph & Bangor Diocesan Chapters) – all welcome
Sun 19th		Trinity 6 (Pentecost 7) Services at normal times
Weds 22nd		Mary Magdalene
	9.00 am	Holy Eucharist
	11.00 am	Holy Eucharist
Thurs 23rd	7.30 pm	Friends of St. Tudno's Church Committee meeting
Fri 25th		James, Apostle
	11.00 am	Yr Offeren
Sun 26th		Trinity 7 (Pentecost 8) Services at normal times
Mon 27th – Thurs 30th		Fr John at Walsingham (North Wales Pilgrimage)

Attendance Figures for May

Friday 1st	11.00 am	Holy Eucharist	5
Phillip & James, Apostles			
		Other Weekday Eucharists	6
Sunday 3rd	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	18
Easter 4`	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	115
	5.00 pm	Evensong	6
Saturday 9th	6.00 pm	Choral Evensong	87
	(Celebration of Norman Rimmer's 20 Years Service as Organist)		
		Total of other Weekday Eucharists	23
Sunday 10th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	15
Easter 5	10.30 am	Choral Matins	88
		Shortened Eucharist	22
	5.00 pm	Evensong	11
		Total of other Weekday Eucharists	34
Sunday 17th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	25
Easter 6	9.45 am	RMPA Service	180
	11.00 am	Sung Eucharist	72
	5.00 pm	Evensong	6
	6.00 pm	Exploring Worship	30
Thursday 21st	11.00 pm	Holy Eucharist	29
Ascension Day	7.30 pm	Holy Eucharist	6
		Total of other Weekday Eucharists	8
Sunday 24th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	18
Easter 7	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	88
	5.00 pm	Evensong	7
		Total of other Weekday Eucharists	23
Sunday 31st	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	19
Pentecost	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	83
`	5.00 pm	Evensong	6

From the Parish Registers

Holy Baptism

May 10th: Matthew Adam Bell

May 31st: Samuel Christopher Hughes

Holy Matrimony

May 16th: Mark Howard Lidgett to Marie Ann Bugler

May 21st: Mark Jeffrey Pavey to Alana Kirsten Tyson

The Departed

May 7th: May Catherine Ellen Murphy (86)
of Plas Isaf, LLanerch Road West, Colwyn Bay
(Cremation at Colwyn Bay)

May 13th: Barbara Muriel Helen Seda (90)
of St. Seiriol's Road, Llandudno
(Cremation at Colwyn Bay)

May 13th: Evan Trevor Lewis (87)
of Bryn Hyfryd Park, Conwy
(Cremation at Colwyn Bay)

May 18th: Margaret Jane Griffiths (84)
of Bryniau Road, Llandudno
(Service at Holy Trinity followed by Cremation at Colwyn Bay)

May 27th: Arthur Woodings Doherty (91)
of Garth Court, Abbey Road, Llandudno
(Cremation at Colwyn Bay)

Veronica

The spiked speedwell (*Veronica spicata*) is a rare British wildflower but can be found flowering on the Great Orme in July. The spikes of blight blue flowers may be seen in some of the dry grassy



Spiked speedwell.



Common field or Persian speedwell.

areas and at first glance the plant bears little resemblance to the low growing speedwell species commonly found in lawns (*V. persica*).

However, all the speedwell species bear very delicate flowers in which the four blue petals are joined together. Cultivated forms of the spiked speedwell are available for the gardener but do look out for the beautiful wild version if you're walking on the Great Orme or similar limestone outcrops, such as the Little Orme or Nant y Gamar.

Christine Jones

Great Hymns — Abide with me

I was at a funeral recently and the only hymn featured was 'Abide with me'. 'Appropriate,' I thought 'but not really my cup of tea.' However, when the officiating priest mentioned that the deceased and the author of the hymn, Henry Francis Lyte, had both attended the Portora Royal School at Enniskillen, it made perfect sense and a re-appraisal was required. What transpires is a story of a life of cruel abandonment, generosity, celebrity, and steadfast faith.

'Abide with me' is perhaps one of the best-known hymns in the English language. It is used by virtually all denominations and, famously, it is sung before every FA cup final. How did that come about?

The Lytes were from Somerset, William le Lyt having taken residence at Lytes Cary Manor near Somerton in 1286. Changing fortunes found Henry Francis' father, Thomas Mohan Lyte, the youngest of a large family, living in Bath. Thomas bought a commission in the army (some accounts say the Royal Marines) but sold it in 1790 and decided to go to the Scottish Borders. He persuaded a young woman who he scarcely knew, Anna Maria Oliver, to sail with him and they made their home at Berwick-upon-Tweed where their first son, Thomas, was born in 1792. After living briefly at Tillmouth, near Coldstream, the family moved to Ednam,

near Kelso where Henry Francis was born in 1793. A third brother, George was born in 1795.

By the end of the decade, Captain Lyte was campaigning again and was garrisoned in western Ireland, defending the realm against a possible French invasion. His family joined him but Thomas Lyte clearly had a roving eye and Anna Maria soon left for England with her youngest son. Some accounts say that both mother and son died shortly afterwards though it is now recorded that Thomas died in 1820 and that Anna Maria died in Yorkshire in the 1830s.

Meanwhile in 1802, Thomas Lyte married an Irish girl, Eliza Naghten (whether or not this was bigamous is not clear) and moved to Jersey. The two older boys were sent to the Portora Royal School as boarders. Thomas was not academic and was sent to join his father in Jersey. Henry Francis remained at Enniskillen, apparently believing himself to be an orphan. This must have been an extremely distressing time for Henry Francis who was aged about 10 and who had obviously been devoted to his mother as a later poem, *Dreaming of my mother – Stay, gentle shadow of my mother, stay* demonstrates.

Henry Francis was all but adopted by the Portora Royal's headmaster, the Rev Dr William Burrowes who paid his school fees. Dr Burrowes was a fel-

low of Trinity College Dublin who had married the daughter of the Bishop of Down. With their three children, the Burrowes' family lived at the school and Henry Francis stayed with them during the school holidays. This profound act of kindness must have had a considerable effect on the sensitive Henry Francis and he was obviously a model pupil as he was awarded a sizarship to Trinity College Dublin in 1809. This provided accommodation in reward for performing menial tasks. Henry Francis' college fees were paid by Dr Burrowes who later became Dean of Cork.

Henry Francis won the Vice-chancellor's Prize for English Verse three times before graduating in 1814. He was ordained deacon that year, priest the following year at the age of 21, and remained in Ireland, becoming curate at St Munn's, Taghmon, Co Wexford (1815-1817). Lyte became hugely influenced by the Rev Abraham Swanne (d 1816), Rector of the nearby parish of Killurin and attended him during a terminal illness.

After Swanne's death, Henry Francis settled the affairs of his friend's widow and attended to the parochial duties of Killurin parish until the appointment of a new rector. The Rev Swanne and Lyte must have had a lot in common as they were both ecumenically minded at a time when religious tolerance was at a low ebb.

Lyte left Ireland in September 1817, seeking warmer climes, riding in Eu-

rope to convalesce from asthma. In 1818, he found a position at the chapel of ease in the parish of Marazion in Cornwall. Here he met and married Anne Maxwell, daughter of Reverend William Maxwell of Monaghan and they were married at Bath. Anne's father died shortly after, leaving them a very welcome legacy which enabled them to live in reasonable comfort. The legacy enabled Lyte to pay off his debt to the Rev Dr William Burrowes in full, which gave him great satisfaction. For a short while, the family lived in Dittisham and Frances Henry did temporary duty at the chapel of ease at Brixham. In 1822, he was invited to remain at Brixham but refused, becoming curate at Charleton.

He stayed at Charleton for almost two years, before moving back to Brixham in 1824. Lyte began by ministering in two churches, St Mary's Church, Brixham, and the new district church of Lower Brixham. He joined the schools committee, and become its chairman. He took a keen interest in the development of education, and in addition to conducting annual school examinations he established the first Sunday school in the area.

Tall, at six-foot-two tall, he was a magnet to the local children, of whom he mustered more than 700 in his Sunday School, which boasted a staff of 80. On 13 July 1826, Lyte was instituted as the first incumbent of All Saints Church (the former district church), a new parish which had been divided off from

Brixham St Mary: a post he held for the remaining 23 years of his life.

Shortly after King George IV took the throne he visited Brixham and was met by Lyte and his choir. The King made him a gift of Berryhead House, formerly a military hospital. He was very keen on musical worship and produced numerous metrical versions of the psalms and hymns including: 'God of mercy, God of grace', 'Pleasant are Thy courts above', and the timeless 'Praise my soul the King of Heaven'.

Anne Lyte bore five children, two girls and three boys. The first girl, named Ann Maria Lyte after Henry Francis' mother, died in infancy. Their second daughter was named Anna Maria Maxwell Lyte.

Lyte's health was never strong and his parochial duties, writings and tutorship caused his health to deteriorate further. His wife's legacy allowed him to go abroad to escape the worst of the English winters. During his last serious illness, he wrote his last hymn 'Abide with me'. Before going abroad again, he left the words and a tune of his own composition with his family. From Avignon he mailed home a revision before succumbing to tuberculosis in Nice on 20 November 1847. He was buried in the English Cemetery of the Holy Trinity Church, in Nice.

When the news of his death reached Brixham the fishermen asked Lyte's son-in-law, who was curate in Brixham, to hold a memorial service and at that service 'Abide with me' was sung

for the first time to the original tune composed by Lyte.

The hymn was originally published in pamphlet form and then in *The Remains of the Late Rev. Henry Francis Lyte* (1850), edited by his daughter Anna Maria Maxwell Hogg. The full hymn follows but most hymnals omit stanzas 3-5 and some 2-5.

*1. Abide with me; fast falls the eventide;
The darkness deepens; Lord with me
abide.*

*When other helpers fail and comforts
flee,
Help of the helpless, O abide with me.*

*2. Swift to its close ebbs out life's little
day;*

*Earth's joys grow dim; its glories pass
away;
Change and decay in all around I see;
O Thou who changest not, abide with
me.*

*3. Not a brief glance I beg, a passing
word;
But as Thou dwell'st with Thy disciples,
Lord,*

*Familiar, condescending, patient, free.
Come not to sojourn, but abide with me.*

*4. Come not in terrors, as the King of
kings,
But kind and good, with healing in Thy
wings,*

*Tears for all woes, a heart for every
plea –
Come, Friend of sinners, and thus bide
with me.*

5. *Thou on my head in early youth didst smile;*

*And, though rebellious and perverse
meanwhile,*

*Thou hast not left me, oft as I left Thee,
On to the close, O Lord, abide with me.*

6. *I need Thy presence every passing
hour.*

*What but Thy grace can foil the tempt-
er's power?*

*Who, like Thyself, my guide and stay can
be?*

*Through cloud and sunshine, Lord, abide
with me.*

7. *I fear no foe, with Thee at hand to
bless;*

*Ills have no weight, and tears no bitter-
ness.*

*Where is death's sting? Where, grave, thy
victory?*

I triumph still, if Thou abide with me.

8. *Hold Thou Thy cross before my closing
eyes;*

*Shine through the gloom and point me
to the skies.*

*Heaven's morning breaks, and earth's
vain shadows flee;*

In life, in death, O Lord, abide with me.

At a glance, this is an evening hymn, based upon Luke 24:29 (the road to Emmaus): 'But they constrained him, saying, Abide with us: for it is toward evening, and the day is far spent.' Of course, it is far more than that, using the analogy of evening being the twilight of life. I have gone into some length into Lyte's biography which makes the hymn more poignant, especially since he was

dying of consumption when he wrote the words.

There is additional theology. For example, the penultimate stanza is a reference to I Corinthians 15: 55: 'O death, where is thy sting? O grave, where is thy victory?' and the last to the Song of Solomon 2:17: 'Until the day breaks and the shadows flee away.' But much of the hymn is very personal. Take, for example, the 'lost' fifth stanza where he reflects positively upon his early life and not of his abandonment.

The hymn surfaced in the USA in 1855 and was included in the first edition of *Hymns, Ancient and Modern* in 1861. The A&M did not use Lyte's own tune *Abide with me* but instead used a tune *Eventide*, composed by its Musical Editor William Henry Monk (1823-1889).

There are differing accounts of how this came about. It is said that Monk penned the tune in 10 minutes following an A&M committee meeting though his widow reportedly related two slightly different accounts: (i) 'Hand in hand we were silently watching the glory of the setting sun until the golden hue had faded ... then he took paper and pencilled the tune that has gone all over the world.' (ii) 'This tune was written at a time of great sorrow – when together we watched, as we did daily, the glories of the setting sun. As the last golden ray faded, he took some paper and pencilled that tune which has gone all over the earth.'

William Monk was born in London

though little is known of his childhood. By the age of 18, he was the organist at St. Peter's Eaton Square, moving on to more influential positions every couple of years. In 1847, he was appointed choirmaster at King's College and organist two years later. In 1852 he was appointed as organist and choirmaster at St. Mathias' church Stoke Newington where he introduced many changes as well as arranging hymns and composing new melodies. In 1857, Monk was appointed to the committee of the A&M and supplied several of his own tunes. In 1874, he was appointed professor of vocal studies at King's and subsequently at the National Training School for Music (1876) and Bedford College (1878).

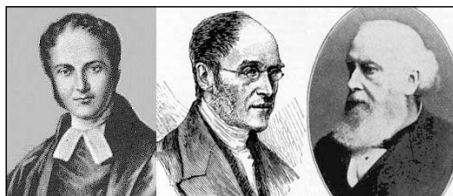
Monk's contribution to church music was considerable. It was the A&M that firmly wedded many tunes to hymns – before that time organists or congregations picked their own tunes. The downside was that because of the conformity, many tunes were lost as there were various traditions around the country. The tunes selected were, almost without exception, set somewhat sedately in four-part harmony and to modern ears, many were unbearably sentimental. Notwithstanding, the best have stood the test of time, none more so than *Eventide*.

The singing of 'Abide with me' has been part of FA Cup Final tradition since 1927. This was the fifth final at the 'new' Wembley Stadium, the teams being Arsenal and Cardiff City. This was the year

community singing was included and because 'Abide with me' was known to be one of the favourite hymns of King George V and Queen Mary, it was included on the songsheet.

Apart from the missing three stanzas, 'Abide with me' has withstood the onslaught of hymnal editors to tweak the words for reasons of doctrine or political correctness and remains as first published. Not unexpectedly, an analysis of hymns sung at the funerals of American dignitaries during the 20th century put the hymn right at the top. There is nowadays a trend to view funerals as celebrations of a life so the popularity of the hymn at funerals may have diminished somewhat. Nevertheless, when an occasion requires solemnity, then 'Abide with me' remains a hymn of choice.

There is a sad postscript to Lyte's story. He was unaware of his mother's frantic attempts to reestablish contact with him. She wrote pleading to Captain Lyte in Jersey for information about her son. Captain Lyte, who apparently fathered eight further children and whose relationship with Henry Francis became something akin to uncle and nephew, refused to inform her.



The young Rev HF Lyte, the older Rev HF Lyte and Dr WH Monk.

Caption Competition

A bottle of wine will be prize for the best caption to the photograph below. Please give your entry to either the Editor, Deputy Editor or any of the church wardens by Sunday 19th July.

