

LLANDUDNO



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 & 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)

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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.

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.



Plwyf Llandudno
Parish of Llandudno

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Llandudno

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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

I can hardly believe that we are entering 2010. Is it really ten years since we celebrated the new millennium and the beginning of the 21st century with such hope and excitement?



What can we say about these first ten years of the new century and millennium? Have they lived up to our hopes? Sadly they have not! The 'noughties' have witnessed the horrors of 9/11 in New York and our own 7/7 bombings in London. They have seen wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the brutal suppression of the uprising in Burma, natural disasters such as the Tsunami and the Chinese earthquake, and as they drew to a close, the credit crunch and world-wide recession. These are only some of the horrors we could mention! Of course there are also many positive things we could say about the last ten years but they do seem to be overshadowed by the bad ones.

And so entering into a new year and a new decade we could easily become cynical and lose all hope for the future of our world. Society seems to be full of selfishness (exemplified by the bankers' bonuses scandal), corruption (highlighted by the MP's expenses row), and violence of many kinds, we can't seem to agree on how to meet the challenges posed by climate change etc. etc.

But wait a moment! Despite all the problems you don't have to look far to discover people who are good and kind and who give their time and energy to caring for others in all sorts of ways; there are plenty of examples of public

servants and politicians who serve with integrity; there are many acts of heroism and bravery in the world; and yes, even some of the seemingly intractable problems do get solved, or at least made much better (think of the progress in Northern Ireland).

Furthermore as followers of Christ we are called to see the world from a divine perspective. We know that despite appearances, this is God's world. The Old Testament prophets teach us that He uses human history and human affairs with all their confusion and turbulence to bring about his purposes. He sometimes even uses evil people and bad situations to bring about the good he has in store. In difficult times we have to wait in the darkness in the belief that God is in ultimate control; we have to have **Hope**.

'Hope' is one of the great Christian virtues and gifts of the Spirit. By 'hope' we don't mean an attitude of 'hoping for the best' or 'looking on the bright side'. The Christian virtue of Hope is much deeper than that. It's actually

about trusting in God's promises that ultimately 'all will be well', that His purposes will be fulfilled often despite appearances. 'Hope' sees that things will not necessarily be easy or comfortable on a human level and that much must be endured, but that in and through all this God will prevail.

So as we enter 2010 and the second decade of the 21st century we can do so with Hope and Trust in God, despite everything, knowing that whatever our world has to experience in the year

ahead, and whatever will come to us on a personal level we can, to quote a famous new year reading 'put our hand into the Hand of God.' I end with a suitable New Year Collect:

O God, by whose command the order of time runs its course: forgive our impatience, perfect our faith and, while we wait for the fulfilment of your promises, grant us to have a good hope because of your word; through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Fr John

News and Notices

Epiphany – Baptism – Presentation

This month we celebrate three important events in the life of Christ, two in his infancy and one which marked the beginning of his Ministry many years later. At the Epiphany and Baptism we mark his 'manifestation' or 'showing forth' to the world. On the Feast of Epiphany itself, the focus is on the visit of the Magi, representing the submission of human power and wealth to Christ, as well as His showing forth to the world outside Judaism. On the Feast of the Baptism we continue the Epiphany theme by seeing Him manifested as God's Divine Son at the moment of his Baptism by John as He prepares to begin his public ministry. The Feast of the Presentation returns us to the infancy of the Saviour as we

welcome Him into the temple and see him offered to His Father.

All of these days have special ceremonies associated with them. Traditionally the Magi are not put into the Crib until Epiphany. A more modern ceremony at the Eucharist involves three members of the congregation bringing the Magi's three gifts to the crib after the reading of the Gospel.

We keep the Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord with special ceremonies of the Blessing of Water, thanksgiving for our own baptism and the rededication of our lives at the beginning of a new year.

The Feast of the Presentation, known also as Candlemas, traditionally involves a procession with everyone carrying lighted candles to welcome Christ to

His temple. The candles reflect the words of the aged Simeon who took Christ into his arms and said the words we know as the Nunc Dimittis which speak of 'a light to lighten the Gentiles and the glory of your people Israel'. The Presentation has become much more important in recent years and has come to be seen as a transition between the Christmas/Epiphany season and the Lent/Easter period. The form of the ceremonies we use today is especially designed to help us make the spiritual transition between these two seasons of the Church Year.

This year all three of these feasts will be held on Sundays. The calendar of the Church in Wales allows us to move both the Epiphany and the Presentation to their nearest Sunday so that more people are present to share in them.

New Area Dean

Many of you will know by now that the Bishop has appointed me Area Dean of Arllechwedd to succeed Canon Peter Jones. I take over as from January 1st and there will be a formal licensing service on a date to be arranged in due course. This will be the second stint I have done as an Area Dean having fulfilled that role in the Deanery of Llifon & Talybolion until I left the parish of Holyhead to come to Llandudno five years ago. It is of course a great honour to serve in this position but I never imagined that I would be doing it again so soon!

Week of Prayer for Christian Unity



Please support the daily services in the Week of Prayer to the best of your ability. These provide a wonderful opportunity to pray with, and to get to know, our fellow Christians in the other churches of Cytûn Llandudno. At the President's Service on Sunday 24th the Revd Neil Kirkham will take over the Presidency of Cytûn from the Revd Mike Long.

Confirmation in 2010

This is the time of year when Confirmation Services have to be booked with the Bishop. Before asking him for a date I need to know if there are likely to be any candidates this year. I would be delighted to hear from potential adult candidates and from young people who are in year 5 at primary school or older. Please let me know about you as soon as possible.

Fr John

Coffee Morning Notes

On the 28th of October, our Coffee Morning Team enjoyed its end of season lunch at the Queens Hotel.

This year we held 27 coffee mornings. Thanks to the support of regular locals and holiday-makers from all over the

country we have been able to present the PCC a cheque for £7000 plus £100 towards the carpet fund.

Together with the Christmas Fayre, Victorian Coffee Morning and the Wondrous Story, the grand total for they year this season is £7763.98.

This season we also wished Jane a happy retirement and made her an honorary member together with Gwen, enabling them to have that **free** cup of coffee, whenever they visit us.

Many thanks to our wonderful team members who have worked extremely hard and deserve a well-earned rest. Special thanks to Joyce for everything she does.

Thanks and a Happy New Year to everyone. See you in April 2010.

Dorothy

Parish Fellowship

We have had a good mix of subjects from our speakers this autumn: with thanks to Vernon of course! We have heard about children growing up in the 20s and 30s: what a different life it was to what it is today.

The Rev Trevor Jones talked to us about 'The Trinity' going back to the 13th and 14th centuries and how it was seen in different ways.



The autumn meetings came to an end with a talk on Victorian Christmas. But who gave the talk? Here are some of the members with their surprise guest.

HOLY TRINITY PARISH FELLOWSHIP MEETINGS SPRING 2010 PROGRAMME

Meetings at 2.30 pm in Holy Trinity Church Hall

Tuesday 19 January	Open Meeting	With Eucharist
Tuesday 26 January	Bernard Lynch	Music and Hymns
Tuesday 2 February	Pat Kirkam	Fair Trade
Tuesday 9 February	Mr Rush	Talking Newspapers
Tuesday 16 February	Eric Dobinson	Family Businesses in 20s and 30s Llandudno
Tuesday 23 February	Gwyneth Peters	Polar Bear
Tuesday 2 March	Christine Jones	Plight of the Bumble Bee
Tuesday 9 March	Barbara Cartwright	Home Tutorials
Tuesday 16 March	Angela Pritchard	Holy Land Pilgroimage
Tuesday 23 March	Closing Meeting	With Eucharist

The autumn meetings begin on Tuesday 5th October 2010

We travelled to Egypt and around the Mediterranean and that was beautiful. Then we found out how the harbour at Port Madog came about because of a ferocious storm and how the little ships that were built around the coast of Wales sailed around the world. Sara Denis' grandfather was a captain on one of them.

'The ABC of Australia' was about the aborigines and when the first convicts were first sent there. The latter were followed by poor families and hundreds of children. How frightening that must have been. (I don't remember being taught that.)

Yes, it has been a good session and we look forward to our spring programme. A Happy New Year to all.

Adele

Son et Lumière Event

On the evening of Thursday the 10th December, our beautiful stained glass nativity windows were illuminated. This was the evening of the Son et Lumière event in memory of my wife Enid.

I would like to thank everyone who worked so hard to make the evening a success.

Thank you to Stan Whittaker and the team of bell ringers, for welcoming us to Church with the sound of the bells ringing out.

To Judith Williams, for arranging transport to enable some local people to attend the event; who, without her help may not have been able to do so. Thank you also to the drivers who volunteered their time to transport people to the Church.



The (central) 'Kings' window. The 'Nativity' window is on the cover.

To Doug Pritchard and his team who braved the elements outside church to ensure that the lighting equipment was kept safe.

The choir was outstanding and I would like to thank our organist and choir-



Carol singing after the Son et Lumière.

master Norman Rimmer, and indeed the whole choir, for their wonderful performance.

Thank you to the readers on the evening, the Reverend Jane Allen, Lynn Ferriday and Charles Lonsdale. A special thank you Jane for your help in putting the evening's reading programme together.

Following the Son et Lumière the hand bell ringers played Christmas carols in the church hall while we were served an extremely welcome glass of mulled wine and mince pies by Barbara Scott, Marion Heald, Judith Williams, Charles Lonsdale and their team.



The hand bell ringers.

The Rector led the audience in the singing of traditional Christmas songs and my thanks go to Ray Sythe-Jones who accompanied us on the piano.

But of course, the evening had been all about the illumination of the nativity windows. This was done so professionally and with such a magical effect; many thanks to Peter La Trobe for allowing us once again to appreciate the beauty of the stained glass windows.

The attendance of around 100 people helped to raise over £180 on the night, which has been added to a donation to Holy Trinity Church in memory of Enid .

A special thank you to everyone; to those who attended and to all who helped, for making it a most memorable evening.

John Horsfield



The coffee morning team serves at the Christmas Fayre.

Christmas Fayre

The Parish Christmas Fayre was held on Saturday 21st November in the hall and despite the weather, was extremely successful. The total raised was £957.65.

Many thanks to all those who helped to stage the event and to all those people who came and supported it.

Stan and Judith



The Christmas Fayre.

Congratulations!

Congratulations to Imogen Silhan-Sutton and Gareth Burrows, who married at St. Tudno's on Christmas Eve.

The marriage was performed by special licence from the Archbishop of Canterbury, as St. Tudno's is not licenced for weddings.

Snow on the ground gave a new meaning to a 'white wedding' but bride and groom, wedding guests, organist, warden and Rector all managed to reach the church safely, despite some of the booked taxis refusing to chance the roads on the Orme.

As those who attend Carols by Candlelight know, St. Tudno's is not heated



The organist and celebrant defrosting.

but the atmosphere is warmer than the temperature and this was certainly true for the wedding. However, to help this along, the bride and groom provided blankets for those guests who needed them and hot punch to thaw everyone out afterwards.



Mr & Mrs Gareth Burrows.

Carols by Candlelight

Many thanks to everyone who braved the 'severe weather' warnings to go to St. Tudno's for Carols by Candlelight on Sunday 20 December: 96 people attended the 3.00 pm service and 55 the 5.00 pm service. Particular thanks to the Friends of St. Tudno's Church who turned out in snow and ice on Saturday to clean the church or who



St. Tudno's at dusk.



A reading by candlelight.

were there in icy winds on Sunday from 11.00 am to 7.00 pm, preparing and clearing away.

Related Letter

Thank you for a lovely carol service yesterday. My wife and I travelled from Liverpool for it. We have been coming to Llandudno for 30 years.

I had a very tragic year this year. I lost my mum and brother tragically. The service gave me strength and determination to get through this lonely Christmas. Thanks again for a nice service in the most beautiful location that anyone could imagine. Happy Christmas to you all.

Steve and Jeanette Hesketh

St. Tudno's Toilets

You may have seen in the local press that the County Council is planning to divest itself of about half its stock of public toilets, including those by St. Tudno's. The toilets are important for visitors to St. Tudno's, the Great Orme Cemetery and this area of the Orme in general. The problem was discussed by the PCC and then raised with Llandudno Town Council. The Town Council is forming a working party to look into this and we are pleased that the Rector and St. Tudno's Wardens have been invited to participate. We will keep you informed of any progress.

***Christine Jones
Stephanie Searle***

Friends of St. Tudno's Plant Sale

The Friends are continuing to raise funds for re-roofing St. Tudno's and will be holding a spring fair during April. We plan to include a plant stall and so we would like to ask you to remember this if you are digging up or dividing any plants or if you have any spare cuttings or seedlings. We plan to sell both garden and house plants but if you are unable to keep your spare plants until

then, please contact me and we will find a 'foster carer' for your plants.

If you would like to take part in Sponsor-a-Slate for St. Tudno's, sponsor forms are available in both churches or can be downloaded from the Sponsor-a-Slate page of the parish Web site.

Christine Jones
(Secretary, Friends of St. Tudno's Church)

Attendance Figures for November

November 1st	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	14
Kingdom 1	10.30 am	Choral Eucharist	83
All Saints' Day	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	5
November 2nd	7.30 am	Requiem Eucharist	22
All Souls' Day	11.00 am	Requiem Eucharist	33
November 5th		Eucharist at Trinity Centre	6
		Total of other weekday Eucharists	22
November 8th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	18
Kingdom 2	9.45 am	Civic Service	(c) 400
Remembrance	11.55 am	Act of Remembrance and Holy Eucharist	36
Sunday	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	9
	6.00 pm	Exploring Worship	33
		Total of other weekday Eucharists	24
November 15th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	18
Kingdom 3	10.30 am	Choral Eucharist	79
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	6
		Total of other weekday Eucharists	21
November 22nd	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	17
Kingdom 4	10.30 am	Choral Eucharist	63
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	7
		Total of other weekday Eucharists	21

November 29th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	14
Advent Sunday	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	83
	5.00 pm	Service for World Aids Day	18
		Total of other weekday Eucharists	8

Calendar for January

Fri 1st	The Naming of Jesus (New Year's Day)	11.00 am	Holy Eucharist
Sun 3rd	The Epiphany of Our Lord		Services as usual for 1st Sunday
Mon 4th	2.30 pm	Mothers Union Eucharist & AGM	
Tues 5th	10.00 am	<i>Julian Meditation Group at Stella Maris</i>	
Sun 10th	The Baptism of Christ (Epiphany 1)		Services as usual for 2nd Sunday
Thurs 14th	10.00 am	Guild of St. Raphael Meeting	
	11.00 am	Eucharist with Ministry of Healing	
Sun 17th	Epiphany 2		Services as usual for 3rd Sunday
Mon 18th – Mon 25th		Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	
		On each weekday of the Week there will be a united service at 10.30 am. The venues for these services will be published in the weekly bulletin	
Sun 24th	Epiphany 3		Morning services as usual for 4th Sunday
		<i>President's Service for Week of Prayer at Gloddaeth United Church (time to be confirmed)</i>	
		(No Evening Prayer at Holy Trinity)	
Mon 25th	The Conversion of Paul, Apostle	11.00 am	Holy Eucharist (Arrangements for this service are subject to change due to Unity Week)
Sun 31st	The Presentation of Christ (Candlemas)		Services at usual times for 5th Sunday

Sidespersons

Jan 3rd	Pat Ridler Doug Pritchard Eira Jones Eileen Roberts	Jan 24th	Dorothy Trent John Ridler Alun Barret Sandra Davies
Jan 10th	Annabel Jones Angela Pritchard William Madelow Adele Arrowsmith	Jan 31st	Pat Ridler Doug Pritchard Marion Heald Barbara Scott
Jan 17th	Stan Whittaker Joyce Crosby Judith Williams Mary Rees	Feb 7th	Annabel Jones Angela Pritchard William Madelow Adele Arrowsmith

From the Parish Registers

The Departed

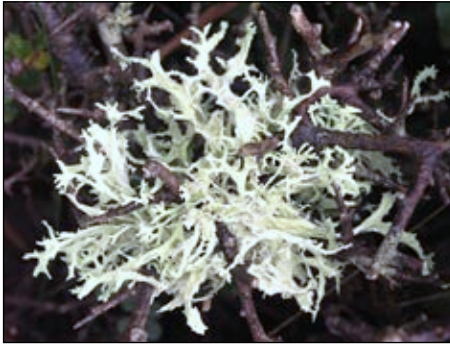
November 9th: William Samuel Craven aged 84
Service at Holy Trinity followed by Cremation at Colwyn Bay

Lovely Lichens

Like the mosses that I wrote about last month, lichens are a group of little plants which can become more obvious during winter. The lichens in the pictures are growing on trees and so are seen more easily when the trees are bare but lichens can also be found on rocks, roofs, walls, fences etc. Lichens grow extremely slowly (some may grow only 1mm a year) and so need a stable surface on which to grow but they can help the process of weather-



Orange crustose lichen with cup-shaped spore bearing structures.



Greyish-green fruticose lichen.

ing rocks and soil formation and so, like mosses, they can be early plants to colonise a new area. Lichens vary in colour, eg bright orange, greenish-grey or black, and in form from flat 'crustose' types to branched 'fruticose' types.

Each lichen species is formed by an association of two different plants: a fungus and an alga or a cyanobacterium. Algae and cyanobacteria can produce sugars from water and carbon dioxide in the presence of sunlight by a process known as photosynthesis. Fungi are unable to do this and, as they cannot produce their own food, they usually live on other living organisms as parasites or on dead or dying organic material as saprophytes. However, in a lichen, fungal cells surround algal or bacterial cells, the fungus gaining food and its partner protection. Lichens are able to survive in very harsh natural environments, where neither the fungus nor the alga or bacterium could survive alone, and lichens are particularly resistant to desiccation.

The Swiss scientist Simon Schwendener (1829-1919) was the first to recognise

that a lichen comprises a fungus and an alga and he gave a talk on this in 1867 but his views were rejected by most of the lichen scientists of his time. One of the first people in the UK to support Schwendener's work was Beatrix Potter in 1896. Although best known for her children's books, Beatrix Potter was a skilled botanical illustrator and was particularly interested in fungi and lichens. In addition to producing beautiful, accurate paintings and drawings, she studied these plants under a microscope, drew what she saw there and experimented with growing the plants from spores. At that time Beatrix Potter appeared to be the only person in the UK performing such advanced studies on fungi, though some scientists on the continent were doing similar work, but being an amateur and a woman Potter's findings were disregarded by "the establishment".

As Beatrix Potter found, the fungal partner in a lichen can produce spores. These will develop into lichen only if the appropriate alga or cyanobacterium is present and so lichens generally reproduce by small parts breaking off or by development of specialised reproductive structures containing both fungal and algal or bacterial cells. Most lichens are very sensitive to air pollution and a good population of lichens therefore indicates clean air. There seem to be quite a number of lichens in this area so I think we can be confident that our air is quite clean.

Christine Jones

Great Hymns — Come Down O Love Divine

Anyone compiling a church service with a theme of divine love would have no problem with the choice of hymns. Foremost would be Charles Wesley's 'Love Divine, All Loves Excelling' and Bianco da Siena/R F Littledale's 'Come Down, O Love Divine'.

'Love Divine' and 'Divine Love' are not pairings found in the Authorised Version of the Bible. However, the 14-15th Century mystic Julian of Norwich (c1342-c1416) wrote what became known as *Revelations of Divine Love* and this may be one source of the expression.

Wesley's hymn began as a parody of the popular secular song by Dryden: 'Fairest Isle, All Isles Excelling' and the first line was probably achieved by tinkering with the words. But 'Come Down, O Love Divine' has a very different Genesis.

Many pious fraternities sprang up in the 14th century and one from Siena was the *Clerici apostolici S. Hieronymi*. Because of their use of ejaculatory prayers such as 'Praised be Jesus', the members were known as *gesuati* (Jesuits, not to be confused with Jesuits). This unordained congregation was founded circa 1360 and many Sienese laymen from leading families joined it. Papal approval was received in 1367. One of the *gesuati* was one Bianco da Siena, born in Anciolina, date unknown.

He was a prolific author of *laude* texts and was active in Siena c 1367 and in Venice where he died in 1434.

Telesforo Bini published over 90 of Bianco da Siena's poems as *Laudi spirituali del Bianco da Siena* in 1851. A number were translated into English by the Rev Dr Richard Frederick Littledale (1833-1890) including a hymn to the Holy Spirit: '*Discendi, Amor Santo*'.

Littledale, the son of a merchant he later described as 'a stout old Orangeman', was born in Dublin. He suffered from poor health, including an undiagnosed spinal condition, and was educated at Bectine House Seminary (a Dublin school for 'young gentlemen'). In due course he entered Trinity College, of which he became a Foundation Scholar in 1852. Senior Moderator and Gold Medallist in Classics in 1854, he took his BA a year later. In 1856 he carried off the Senior Berkeley Gold Medal and First Divinity Prize. He proceeded to the degree of MA in 1858, and to that of LLD in 1862, in which year he also became DCL at Oxford.

Littledale was ordained Deacon in 1856, by the Bishop of Norwich, and Priest in 1857 by the Bishop of London. He was assistant curate of St. Matthew's Church, Thorpe Hamlet, 1856-7, and he associated himself in 1857 with the Vicar of St. Mary-the-Virgin, Soho, with whom he remained

as assistant curate until 1861 when he was compelled, by chronic ill-health, to abstain from regular parochial work. He then devoted himself to literature and published about 50 works. He was a major contributor to publications such as the Encyclopaedia Britannica and the Church Times.

Littledale was a theologian of great learning, so much so that his preaching was often way over the heads of some and highly regarded by others. He was a high-churchman but firmly resisted any move towards Rome, writing *Plain Reasons against joining the Church of Rome* in 1880. A Canadian churchman, not long after his death, said of him: 'In the good providence of God he was raised up to be our David against the giant antagonist of Rome. At a very critical period of his controversial fight, when many men less learned, and forgetful of their inestimable privileges, were being tempted to desert to the enemy, shrinking from the conflict with the overpowering host of adversaries, the sling and pebble of the *Plain Reasons* settled the question, and kept thousands loyal to their English Mother.'

Above all, Littledale had a keen sense of humour and a power of repartee. It was said that he lost his first curacy when, before a high ritualistic celebration on the Eve of St. Lawrence's Day, he had stolen into the church and substituted a suitably solemn hymn, especially written for the occasion, with the macabre Dublin street song "Twas the night before Larry was stretched!"

I'm not very good on saints but it is my understanding that St. Lawrence was martyred by grilling on a grid iron, not by hanging. St. Lawrence is the Patron Saint of comedians having, by tradition, cried out to his tormentors '*Assum est, inquit, versa et manduca* – This side's done, turn me over and have a bite'. It is ironic that Littledale's superior did not appreciate comedians. But I digress.

Littledale was contemporary to and collaborated with John Mason Neale and shared Neale's fascination with the Eastern Church. Littledale's translations and original hymns, which generally date from 1863, are almost as prolific as Neale's but he is perhaps less remembered for them. The subject hymn was first published in *The People's Hymnal* which he produced with another of Neale's contemporaries and collaborators, Gerald Moultrie, in 1867.

Unlike many of the translations of the ancient texts that strove to keep their original form, Littledale was forced to take a different approach to '*Discendi, Amor Santo*'. Most complicatingly, the original text comprised one four-line stanza followed by seven stanzas of eight lines. The first and second stanzas were:

*Discendi, amor santo
Visita la mie mente
Del tuo amore ardente,
Si che di te m'infihammi tutto quanto.*

*Vienne, consolatore,
Nel mio cuor veramente:
Del tuo ardente amore*

*Ardel veracemente:
Del tuo amor cocente
Si forte sie ferito;
Vada come smarrito
Dentro e di fuore ardendo tutto quanto.*

Clearly, a translation for use as a hymn retaining the original framework and metre would have been most difficult. Nevertheless, Littledale certainly respected the spirit of short lines followed by a longer line and created a masterpiece, true in spirit with the original, in a highly unusual 6.6.11 D metre:

*Come down, O Love divine,
Seek thou this soul of mine,
And visit it with thine own ardour
glowing;
O Comforter, draw near,
Within my heart appear,
And kindle it, thy holy flame bestowing.*

*O let it freely burn,
Till earthly passions turn
To dust and ashes in its heat consuming;
And let thy glorious light
Shine ever on my sight,
And clothe me round, the while my path
illuming.*

*Let holy charity
Mine outward vesture be,
And lowliness become mine inner
clothing;
True lowliness of heart,
Which takes the humbler part,
And o'er its own shortcomings weeps
with loathing.*

And so the yearning strong,

*With which the soul will long,
Shall far outpass the power of human
telling;
For none can guess its grace,
Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his
dwelling.*

It is unclear whether or not Littledale suggested a tune for the hymn and *The People's Hymnal* was not published with a music edition. I can find no tune pre-dating the hymn with a 6.6.11 D metre so it may have proved problematical in using a suitable tune – until 1906 when the *English Hymnal* was published.

Music Editor, Ralph Vaughan Williams, disliked specially composed tunes, preferring to scour and adapt tunes from other sources. Indeed, only four tunes in the first edition of the *EH* were of his own composition, all written to fit unusual metres: *Sine Nomine* ('For All the Saints' – 10.10.10.4), *Randolph* ('God Be With You Till We Meet Again' – 9.8.8.9), *Salve Festa Dies* ('Hail Thee Festival Day' – irregular) and, of course, *Down Ampney* for the title hymn (6.6.11 D). Down Ampney is the village in Gloucestershire where RVW was born and where his father was incumbent.

After a shaky start, the *EH* was hugely influential, mainly because of its fine music. Arch rival, *Hymns Ancient and Modern*, had some catching up to do. The next printing of the *A&M* was the second supplement of 1916 which, for the first time, included 'Come Down O Love Divine.' The *A&M* was unable

or unwilling to pay the royalties for using *Down Ampney* and printed a tune *North Petherton* by Sir William H Harris (1883-1973).

Later highly influential in Anglican church music, Harris held the position of organist in a number of churches and cathedrals and became Professor of Organ and Harmony at the Royal College of Music from 1921. Harris also arranged the hymn/tune as an anthem for a four part choir (SATB) with an organ accompaniment which is still published in sheet form by Novello and Co. In 1954, Novellos published a unison anthem to the words by Norman Gilbert (1912-1975).

The hymn remains popular and is often used at weddings as well as at Whitsuntide. Some modern printings omit the third stanza which highlight Bianco da Siena's fraternal leanings. Predictably, the politically-correct have neutered the hymn. Thus stanza 4:5-6:

*Till he become the place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes his
dwelling.*

is now often printed as:

*Till Love create a place
Wherein the Holy Spirit makes a
dwelling.*

What may be difficult to understand is that Vaughan Williams later attempted to have *Down Ampney* withdrawn but his publishers, the Oxford University Press, refused. RVW was a very modest person. (Famously he refused a knighthood.) He

was constantly critical of his work and sought help to improve his techniques. RVW wrote *Down Ampney* when he was in his early 30s and it is possible that he retrospectively regarded it as being too similar to the sentimental Victorian tunes that he had striven to replace. Fortunately, his disappointment is our gain.

Vaughan Williams had a long and well documented career, becoming the most famous of all English twentieth century composers. But what of Littledale? In addition to his academic and theological career, he used to assist at St. Michael's, Shoreditch and at the chapel of the Sisters at St. Saviour's Priory, Haggerston. His house in Red Lion Square was the resort of countless enquirers and perplexed seekers for information on theological problems.

His life remained dominated by his chronic ill-health and according to contemporary reports, he suffered a great deal and became unable to travel by train or carriage. One of these reports recorded Littledale's death: 'He passed away quietly on January 11th, 1890. Half drowsy and unconscious all the day, about a quarter-to-five he had a bad attack of coughing, and saying, "I have never felt so weak as this before," he laid his head back on the pillow, and gave up his spirit into the Hands of the Master he had served so truly and loyally.'

Littledale was buried at Woking. He was never married.

The Messiah — author unknown

Most of us are familiar with the words and music of this great oratorio, but old Bill Jones from Netherton, a little village in the West Riding, had never been to a performance and he tried to persuade a friend to go with him to the Huddersfield Town Hall to hear the famous choral society, but his friend refused. 'Nay', he said, 'that sort o' music's nowt in my line. I like a good comic song or a lively jig, but I reckon nowt to this sacred stuff as they call it. It's beyond me. An' another thing, there'll be none of our sort there neither. It'll be mostly religious folk and swells done up in boiled shirts and wimmen wi' nowt much on. Nay, you go by this-sen and then you can tell us all about it sometime.'

So Bill went by himself and the next time the old pals met, the following conversation took place:

'Well, cummon...how did thi get on at Messiah?'

'Aye, well', said Bill, 'it were fair champion. I wouldn'ta missed it for all tea in China. When a got there, the Town Hall were crowded, it were choc full 'o folk and I had a job to gerra seat, but no wonder it were all them singers - they took up half of gallery. 'There were a chap larkin' about on the organ, he weren't playing nowt in particular, just running 'is fingers up and down as if he were practising. Well, after a bit, a lot

o' chaps came in carrying fiddles, then they brought in the Messiah. Well, that's what I took it to be. It were the biggest instrument on the platform and it were covered in a big green bag. Anyroad, they took the bag off it and then a bloke rubbed its belly with a stick and you should have heard it groan. It were summat like a dying cow.

'I was just thinking o'going when a little chap came on, all dolled up in a white weskit and wi'a flower in his buttonhole and everything went dead quiet. You could have heard a pin drop. He had a stick in his hand and he started waving it about and all the singers stared at him...I reckon they were wondering what were up wi' him.

'Then they started to sing and they 'hadn't been going long afore they were fighting like cats. I reckon he should have walloped one or two of 'em with that stick. First one side they were t'King of Glory then t' other side said they were, and they went at it 'ammer and tongs, but it fizzled out, so I've no idea which side won.

'Then there were a bit 'o bother about some sheep that was lost. I don't know who they belonged to, but one lot o' singers must have been very fond o' mutton, 'cos they kept on singing "All we like sheep." I couldn't help saying to a bloke what were next to me that sheep's all right in moderation but I

like a: bit o'beef missen and he looked daggers at me and said "Shhh," so I shushed.

'A lot of wimmen stood up after that and all of 'em must a bin 64 if they were a day. They sang "Unto us a child is born," and the chaps sang back "Wonderful" and I thought "Wonderful, its a blummin miracle!" After that they sobered down bit an sang about a lass called Joyce Greatly. I've never heard of her missen but the chaps had, 'cos they all looked mighty pleased about it.

'Then some bloke got up and said he wast king o'kings, another one said

he were, and then blow me, they all started arguing about it. I was getting a bit fed up, when everybody stood up to see what the matter was, and suddenly shouted, "Hallelujah, it's going to rain for ever and ever". Well, at that I jumped up and made straight for door. I'd had me money's worth and besides, I was thinkin that if it were going to rain for ever and ever, I'd best be getting home before the flood came.

'Burrit it were a reight good do though, you shouldha' come.

Via Jane Allen

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)

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