

A photograph of a pond with large green lily pads and a single white water lily flower in bloom. The lily pads are dark green with some lighter spots, and the water is dark. The flower is white with a yellow center and pinkish edges.

# LLANDUDNO

**Cylchgrawn Plwyf Parish Magazine**

**50p**

*Water Lilies at Bodnant Gardens.*

**July 2013**

# Services

## Holy Trinity Church, Mostyn Street

### Sundays

- 8.00 am Holy Eucharist
- 10.30 am Sung Eucharist (1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>  
& 5<sup>th</sup> Sundays)
- Matins followed by  
shortened Eucharist (2<sup>nd</sup>  
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)

oOo

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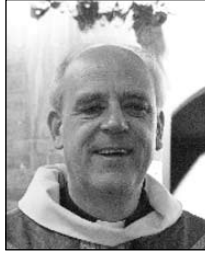
The deadline for copy for any edition is the 7th of the previous month. Please leave copy in box near pulpit in Holy Trinity Church or e-mail:

[editor@llandudno-parish.org.uk](mailto:editor@llandudno-parish.org.uk)

Copy may be on disk, printed or handwritten.

## From the Rectory

Last month, you will recall, I wrote about the importance of silent prayer – this time the subject is rather different: the long-awaited renovation of Holy Trinity Church Hall! It is hoped that this work will begin during the coming month. I say ‘hoped’ because at the time of writing (in early June just before my holiday) we had not yet received the faculty from the diocesan authorities which will allow us to get on with it.



Normally work in Church Halls does not need such authorization, but our Hall is joined to the Church and together they form a grade 2\* listed building and so we can't proceed with any major work to the Hall without receiving permission to do so. However, if this permission is received shortly and the contractors are available when we want them, then the work should begin at some point during July. Probably by the time this magazine appears we will know one way or the other.

During the work, expected to last for at least eight weeks, the hall will obviously have to be closed and out of bounds to the public. We apologize to all those who use the Hall for the disruption to their normal routines but trust that they will feel that it worth all the hassle when the work is completed and we have a Hall fit for the 21st century.

We are also sorry that there may still be uncertainty about whether the work will be able to start this summer – this is out of our control unfortunately. If the faculty doesn't come through in time for a summer start we will prob-

ably have to wait until early 2014 as we can't have the Hall out of use in the run up to Christmas.

What will actually be done in the Hall? As well as re-decoration, we will be removing the false ceiling (the roof itself is now insulated) and installing a new heating system. The ladies/disabled toilets will be refurbished and a new kitchen fitted. The funds for the work will partly from money raised by Judith Williams and her team at special coffee mornings, and money from various legacies – the kitchen work is being funded by a legacy from the late Margot Hughes.

We are very grateful to Judith in particular for the hard work she has put in to raise money. Thanks are also due to the other members of the fabric committee for all the work they have put in to see this project come to fruition. All we can do now is to wait and see when it will all happen!

**Fr. John**

## News and Notices

### **Easter Vestry Changes**

Following the Easter Vestry there is only one change of personnel to note. After six years Stephanie Searle has retired as Sub-Warden at St. Tudno's. We are grateful to her for everything that she has done in her years of office and know that she will continue to make an important contribution to the life of St. Tudno's. To replace Stephanie, Christine Jones resumes the sub-wardenship at St. Tudno's which she only gave up a few years ago! Shirley Georgeson continues as the other sub-warden at

St. Tudno's.

We thank all our Wardens and Sub-Wardens for the hard work they put in throughout the year.

*Fr John*

### **St. Tudno's**

Trinity Sunday on 26 May was the first outdoor service of the year. The weather was beautiful, sunny and quite warm but breezy. The service was led by Revd Derek Simpson and the organist was



*Rob and Shirley Georgeson at Deganwy Prom Day.*

Pauline Bigby. The congregation was 29 people and two dogs. In the address, the description of a shamrock was given as an analogy of the Trinity.

The Friends of St. Tudno's took part in Deganwy Prom Day on Saturday 1st June, sharing our gazebo with the Friends of Happy Valley. We had a stall with St. Tudno's souvenirs, cards, photographs and programmes of services, while the Friends of Happy Valley had displays of their activities. People from the British Legion stand next door kindly helped us to stabilise the gazebo with various weights in the very sunny but windy day. There were various craft and cake stalls, representatives from different charities, a bouncy castle, dog competitions, music and other events.

We were entertained by a Morris

dancing group performing in front of the Friends' stall. In the afternoon the tide came in and we were able to enjoy seeing many boats and yachts sailing close by. There were a lot of people who came to chat and we had a very enjoyable day. Many thanks to Vernon for all his help with transport and setting up.

On Sunday 2nd June the Parish Eucharist for St. Tudno was held at St. Tudno's. Three buses drove most of the congregation to the church. Fr. John led the service and the choir was led by Norman Rimmer. The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Malcolm Bullock, and his wife attended to represent Llandudno Town Council. The theme of the service was Christ being the Light of the World and St. Tudno bringing forward Christ's light.



*Pilgrims muster outside Holy Trinity Church.*

There was approximately 76 adults and six children at the service. Hot drinks and cakes were enjoyed afterwards, by those who didn't have to rush off too quickly for the waiting bus.

On 5th June we had the annual St. Tudno's Day Pilgrimage Walk, beginning with a short service at Holy Trinity, for

a blessing of those beginning a journey. Fifteen then set off on the walk, another two joined on the way and it was hot and sunny throughout. Prayers and readings were given at various stages. At St. Tudno's Well, visited by kind permission of the landowners, Fr. John blessed the water and signed everyone with a cross.



*Pilgrims at St. Tudno's well.*

A Eucharist for the Feast of St. Tudno was held in the church and attended by 23 people. The service was led by Fr. John, while Ray Stythe-Jones played the organ. The Gospel reading and address were on the theme of "Come to me all you who are weary and burdened and I will give you rest". Fr. John explained that God wants to give us abundant life and that the water which was poured into our hands at St. Tudno's Well speaks to us of the abundance of living that is attainable through Him. At the end of the service picnics were enjoyed, sitting on the benches in the beautiful sunshine.

The first service of Compline by Candlelight this summer was held on Tuesday 11 June and was attended by 13 people, who enjoyed this lovely service in the quiet of the church.

Sunday 9th June was a perfect summer day and we had a congregation of 30. Revd David Jenkins led the service and Pauline Bigby played the organ. The Gospel reading and sermon were on the theme of the compassion of Jesus.

On Sunday 16th June the weather again was beautiful and the congregation was 23. Revd Peter Plunkett led the service and Denis Cartwright played the organ. The Bible readings and sermon were on the theme of the mercy of God and the importance of a humble walk with Him.

**Shirley Georgeson**  
**Stephanie Searle**

## **At St. Tudno's in July**

St. Tudno's Church is open every day and there is a short Morning Service on Saturdays at 9.00 am. Open air services continue each Sunday morning at 11.00 am and a taxi from Holy Trinity to St. Tudno's leaves Holy Trinity at 10.30 am, returning from St. Tudno's at midday. The taxi is paid for by the parish but any donations towards the cost would be most welcome. Compline by Candlelight will be on Tuesday 9 July at 7.30 pm. On Sunday 28 July there will be a Healing Service at 4.00 pm, with the Guild of St. Raphael.

## **Friends of St. Tudno's Church**

The annual Friends' outing will be on Saturday 13 July and we will be visiting some of the little churches of the Conwy Valley. Anyone who likes St. Tudno's is sure to like these churches, too, so please contact me as soon as possible if you would like to take part in the outing.

On Friday 9 August there will be a concert of classical guitar with poetry in St. Tudno's Church at 8.00 pm. Tickets will be £5.00 on the door and will include light refreshments. There will be more details in the August magazine.

**Christine Jones**

## Rededication of the West Window

The cover of last month's magazine showed a photograph taken after the rededication service on 12 May, when we were joined by some of those who used to attend the church from which the glass came. The West Window glass formed part of the East Window of St. Augustine's Church, Cheadle Heath, which celebrated its centenary in 1993 but sadly closed in 2005. Cheadle Heath became part of the parish of Edgeley and Cheadle Heath and the congregation of St. Augustine's joined that of the parish church of St. Matthew.



Some of St. Matthew's parishioners and their incumbent accompanied their friends from St. Augustine's to Llandudno for the service, which was also attended by the Diocesan Architect and

representatives of the stonemasons and stained glass specialists who had worked on the window. The service included a reading from a sermon of St. Augustine and reflections on events depicted in the window: the Annunciation and the visit of the magi.

During the hymn *Longing for light*, we wait in darkness there was a procession to the back of the church and everyone turned to the West Window for the rededication by Bishop Andrew. The service was followed by a lovely spread of refreshments and a chance to chat with our visitors, who were delighted with the service and the location of their glass.

## Blagovest Ensemble

On 3 June we welcomed back the Blagovest Ensemble from St. Petersburg, who were making their annual tour of the UK. This year the Ensemble comprised Conductor and soprano Olga Kozlova and Bass Miroslav Alexeev, who are regular members of the tour, and baritone Sergey Rozhkov, whom we met last year. New this year were mezzo-soprano Ekaterina Kanevskaya and tenor Vyacheslav Ignatovich. The first half of this excellent concert comprised Russian Orthodox sacred music, by composers including Bortnyansky and Chesnokov, and was followed by an interval during which there was an opportunity to talk to the singers and purchase CDs or Russian craft items. The music in the second half was lively





*The Blagovest Ensemble.*

Russian folk songs, such as the ever popular Song of the Volga Boatmen. The programme gave a synopsis of each of these songs, which were accompanied by actions from some of the singers and applauded with great enthusiasm by the audience.

**Christine Jones**

### **Heather**

Heather Henry is marrying her Dave in Portugal on the 19th July and I will be playing for the service. Anne and I will be going to Portugal on the 16th July and returning on the 23rd.

I'm sure that many of you would like to send your good wishes to Heather who

gave such valuable service to the church and in particular the choir. I will be happy to take any cards or best wishes and would be grateful if I can have them not later than Sunday 13th July.

**Norman Rimmer**

### **Holy Wells Walk**

On Monday 27 May Fr. John joined the Rhoscystennin Well Walk, beginning at Llangystennin and walking via Penrhynside to St. Sadwrn's Well at Craigside. From there they continued to St. Mary's Well at Llanrhos and via West Shore and Marine Drive to St. Tudno's. On a rather wet day, some like Fr. John completed the whole distance



*Fr. John marks Canon Bob Griffiths with a sign of the cross.*

while others joined for different parts of the walk. Shirley and I joined in at St. Tudno's, where we provided hot drinks and biscuits before accompanying the walkers to St. Tudno's Well, which (as on St. Tudno's Day) we visited by kind permission of the landowners. During a short service at the Well, the water was blessed and everyone signed with a cross. Congratulations to all those who completed the walk and to the lady who tackled the difficult section at St. Tudno's Well despite some difficulties in walking.

**Christine Jones**

## **Congratulations**

The Magazine is delighted to report that two of our regular parishioners have had their hard work in the voluntary sector recognised.

Firstly, congratulations go to subwarden Terry Dewar who has been awarded a Volunteer Champion award by the charity Action on Hearing Loss Cymru.

The award, made at a special ceremony at Cardiff's City Hall in June, marked Terry's tireless commitment in contributing to the charity's Hear to Help – hearing aid support and maintenance project.

Secondly, congratulations are due to regular parishioner Betty Perrin was awarded the MBE in the recent Queen's Birthday Honours. This was in recognition of her tireless work for the Llandudno Branch of Carers Wales over the last 30 years.

Betty, who nursed her late husband at home for 34 years has been chairman of the branch for many years.



*Terry Dewar receives his award in Cardiff.*



*Betty Perrin MBE.*

**The Llandudno  
Town Band**  
is playing  
**AN EVENING OF  
POPULAR MUSIC**

on Thursday 4 July  
at Holy Trinity Church  
at 8.00 pm  
in aid of

**Llandudno Branch  
Carers Wales**

Tickets at the door - £5

## **HTC 150**

At the Easter Vestry meeting of the PCC the HTC 150 Group were given the go-ahead to put plans for events and publications into effect, continuing to bring specific ideas a step nearer realisation. All plans will be put before the PCC for individual approval.

Members of the St Tudno Lodge, Nigel Bannerman, Mike Ashley, and Brian Goldsmith, attended the most recent meeting of the HTC 150 Group on 23rd May and provided details on how the Lodge proposed to support the 150th Anniversary. Church members will be aware that the Lodge was heavily involved in raising funds for the construction of the Church in 1865, and it is likely that the Church would not have been completed at that time had it not been for the financial support of the Lodge.

The Lodge members indicated that the Lodge would be able to provide a Marquee for the Saturday afternoon 'Fun Day', and possibly help provide refreshments. The goodwill shown by the Lodge members towards the Anniversary was much appreciated by the 150 Group.

As discussion and ideas continue, the group is moving towards finalising plans for the event, and it is hoped to produce a draft programme before the end of the year. Fundraising will be necessary to avoid depleting the Parish finances, and to this end a fundraising group has been established. Members

of the fundraising group are William Maidlow, Judith Williams, Terry Dewar, Shirley and Rob Georgeson, and Geoff Howard. Please expect to hear more very soon about fundraising plans and, as always, the views and ideas of Church members are particularly welcome. Do have a word with me or, better still, come along to one of the meetings of the 150 Group. The next meeting is on Thursday 4th July, 7.30 pm in the Church Hall.

***William Maidlow***

## **The Churchyards**

At the PCC meeting on 6th June the proposal to establish a Churchyards sub-committee was approved. Members of the sub-committee are William Maidlow, Christine Jones, Jennifer Fossi, and Terry Dewar, though it should be added that we are keen to recruit any Church members (including Friends of St. Tudno) who express an interest. As indicated in last month's magazine, the sub-committee intends to explore ideas and canvass the views of Church members with a view to producing management plans for our three Churchyards based on factors such as maintenance costs, wildlife, plants, graves and memorials, aesthetic considerations.

There are no plans to change the car parking arrangements at Holy Trinity Church which will continue to be handled separately.

Concern about dog mess in the Holy Trinity Churchyard has become the first issue to be addressed, and shortly notices will appear prohibiting the exercise of dogs (with the exception of dogs accompanying partially sighted persons) in the Churchyards.

Members of the sub-committee will also be negotiating with the organisers of the Victorian Extravaganza to voice concerns that have arisen relating to use of the Churchyard: it is important to emphasise that we intend to adopt a pro-active approach, recognising the importance of the Extravaganza to Llandudno, while at the same time ensuring that the interests of Holy Trinity are respected, and the detail of agreements adhered to. We recognise



'Of course, the main reason why churchyards make such good wildlife sanctuaries is that the cars only go at walking pace.'

that when the Extravaganza takes place, and particularly when the floats are being set up, we will need to have people on site to ensure our stipulations are followed.

Next month the sub-committee will be represented at a Church of Wales meeting in Dolgellau devoted to issues relating to the maintenance of Churchyards. More on this in the August magazine. The Church of Wales has also provided us with a document setting out the legal and health and safety issues relating to Churchyard maintenance; almost certainly an appropriate base on which to build our foundations.

As emphasised at the beginning of this report, we do not intend to run before we can walk: existing maintenance of our three Churchyards will continue for the time being while we put together plans for 2014. It is in this context that we do hope to receive your thoughts and ideas, your concerns and fears, that we can gradually shape into Churchyards that you can be proud of...and which will ensure fewer sleepless nights for our Hon. Treasurer pondering the drain on the Parish finances. Do let us know your thoughts; better still come and join one of our working parties, age really is no barrier, and if you think you can contribute in any way, do let us know.

**William Maidlow**

# Calendar for July

Mon 1st	2.30 pm	Mothers' Union Service and Beetle Drive
Tues 2nd	10.00 am	'Julian' meditation group at Stella Maris
Weds 3rd	<b>Thomas, Apostle</b>	
	9.00 am	Eucharist
Thurs 4th	7.30 pm	150th Anniversary Group meeting
<b>Sun 7th</b>	<b>Trinity 6</b>	
		<b>Services as usual</b> for the 1st Sunday plus:
	12.30 pm	Holy Baptism
Tues 9th	7.30 pm	Compline by Candlelight at St. Tudno's
Thurs 11th	10.00 am	Guild of St. Raphael meeting
	11.00 am	Eucharist with Ministry of Healing
	7.30 pm	Standing Committee meeting
Sat 13th		Friends of St. Tudno's Church Pilgrimage/Outing to the Conwy valley. See page 11 for details of this day.
<b>Sun 14th</b>	<b>Trinity 7/Sea Sunday</b>	
		<b>Services as usual</b> for the 2nd Sunday plus:
	12.30 pm	Holy Baptism
		(The 10.30 am service will be Family Worship for Sea Sunday.)
Tues 16th – Thurs 18th		The Rector, Ray Millington and Geoff & Trish Howard will be on pilgrimage at Walsingham
Sat 20th	4.00 pm	Marriage Blessing at St. Tudno's
<b>Sun 21st</b>	<b>Trinity 8</b>	
		<b>Services as usual</b> for the 3rd Sunday plus:
	12.30 pm	Holy Baptism
Mon 22nd	<b>Mary Magdelene</b>	
	11.00 am	Holy Eucharist
Tues 23rd	11.00 am	Cytûn Council meeting at St. David's, Penrhyn Bay
Thurs 25th	<b>James, Apostle</b>	
	11.00 am	Holy Eucharist
	7.30 pm	PCC Meeting
Fri 26th	2.30 pm	Blessing of a Marriage
Sat 27th	1.00 pm	Wedding of Robert Ellis & Esther Gardiner

**Sun 28th Trinity 9**

**Services as usual** for the fourth Sunday .The 10.30 am Sung Eucharist will also be the 'Mayor's Sunday' Service.

## Sunday Rota

**7th Jul**

Reader	Eileen Box		Dorothy Trent
Sidespersons	Wendy Stewart	Eucharistic	Terry Dewer
	Angela Pritchard	Ministers	Marion Heald
	Cath Lloyd		Maggie Leitch
	Terry Dewer		
Eucharistic	Stan Whittaker		
Ministers	Marion Heald		

**14th Jul**

Readers	Ray Stythe-Jones		Eira Jones
	Gay Stythe-Jones		Ray Millington
Sidespersons	Annabel Jones	Eucharistic	Gwen Robinson
	William Maidlow	Ministers	Linda Blundell
	Doug Prichard		Cath Lloyd
	Vernon Morris		Stan Whittaker
E Minister	Angela Pritchard		John Ridler

**21st Jul**

Reader	Sandra Davies		Peter La Trobe
Sidespersons	Joyce Crosby		Ron Illidge
	Judith Williams		Wendy C-Stewart
			Annabel Jones
			William Maidlow
		Eucharistic	Cath Lloyd
		Ministers	Marion Heald

**28th Jul**

Reader	Eira Jones
Sidespersons	Ray Millington
	Gwen Robinson
	Linda Blundell
	Cath Lloyd
	Stan Whittaker
	John Ridler

**4th Aug**

Reader	Peter La Trobe
Sidespersons	Ron Illidge
	Wendy C-Stewart
	Annabel Jones
	William Maidlow
	Cath Lloyd
	Marion Heald

## Attendance Figures

		Eucharists to May 4th	31
May 5th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	14
Easter 6	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	81
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	4 + 2
May 7th	2.30 pm	Eucharist for MU	23
		Other weekday Eucharists	47

May 12th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	14
Sunday after	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist with Baptism and Confirmation	99
Ascension	3.00 pm	Service of Rededication of West Window	65
		Other weekday Eucharists	32
May 19th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	23
Day of Pentecost	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	100
	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	4
		Other weekday Eucharists	26
May 26th	8.00 am	Holy Eucharist	16
Holy Trinity	10.30 am	Sung Eucharist	62
	11.00 am	Morning Service at St. Tudno's	29
Patronal Festival	5.00 pm	Evening Prayer	4 + 2
		Other weekday Eucharists	34

## *PARISH REGISTER*

### *Holy Baptism*

*May 19th: Phoebe Grace Roberts*

*May 26th: Ava May Frances Weston*

*June 9th: Molly-Ann Elizabeth Robinson*

*June 9th: Taylor-James Jack Robinson*

### *Holy Matrimony*

*May 18th: Thomas Harris and  
Stephanie Ellen Curtis*



# New Llandudno Walk

Holy Trinity Church features in a new Royal Geographical Society 'Discovering Britain' walk. This series of walks tells the story of the British landscape, focusing on geographical themes. The Llandudno three-mile walk tells the story of the town including the location of the town within the physical landscape, the planned layout of the town, and the contribution of tourism to the economy.

Featured are promenades, piers, and Punch & Judy – essential elements of the British seaside resort. Discover why the marshland behind Llandudno Bay was chosen for a resort to rival those of the Mediterranean and how the design of the town was carefully planned. Admire elegant hotels and find out

about the regulations that controlled the size and design of buildings.

Llandudno attracted wealthy clientele who came to stay in exclusive hotels for the season, as well as ordinary families from the industrial cities who came for their annual holidays year after year.

While cheap package holidays threatened many British seaside resorts find out how Llandudno has adapted to the changing circumstances whilst maintaining its character.

The walk is self-guided and presented in both audio and written formats; both can be downloaded for free from the Discovering Britain website: <http://www.discoveringbritain.org/walks/region/wales/llandudno.html>.

## 10. A corner of Wales that is forever England

### Holy Trinity Church

Some people came to Llandudno for holidays and others stayed for a season. Visitors to the town didn't only need places to stay; they also needed other services including shops and churches.

Here a whole block of the grid plan is taken up by Holy Trinity Church, designed by the architect George Felton, an associate of Mostyn.

This church was designed in an 'English' architectural style for English-speaking visitors to Llandudno.



Holy Trinity Church  
© Martin Haslett

*An extract from the printed guide.*

# Sea Sunday – 14 July



**SEA SUNDAY**  
14 July 2013

For leaving your loved ones behind.  
For enduring the high seas in all weathers.  
For suffering isolation.  
For working long hours day and night.  
For facing the harshest conditions.  
For doing all of this, to bring us the necessities of life.

**Thank you.**

Please say a prayer, make a donation and send a seafarer a message of thanks on Sea Sunday.

  
Caring for seafarers around the world.  
www.missiontoseafarers.org - www.seasunday.org

A life at sea remains one of the most difficult, dangerous and challenging of occupations, yet we all rely on seafarers to bring us the majority of our daily goods. The Mission to Seafarers provides a vital lifeline and a warm welcome to the 1.3 million seafarers in need all around the world.

It's always traumatic when illness and injury strike, but being injured whilst on a long contract away from home can be deeply distressing. Alone and left behind while your ship sails on to its next destination only adds to the strain. Families waiting for news will be very anxious and need to know that their loved ones are being cared for. The Mission provides that vital support.

Last year, Salac had a serious accident on board a container ship berthed at Ipswich. He fell 15 feet into an empty cargo hold, fracturing his back and pelvis; he was amazed to be alive.

Salac was hospitalised for several days and the Mission chaplain was on hand to visit him regularly, so he had a friend in his time of need. The Mission gave him access to a mobile phone and a SIM card so that he could call his distraught family. He suffered from worry and grief at being unable to work, and he was in a lot of pain. The Mission helped to manage his journey home to the Philippines, including arranging wheelchair access at the airport. Without the Mission, he would have been trying to cope alone.

The Mission to Seafarers' teams of caring chaplains and volunteers all over the world offer the hand of Christian fellowship, and a safe haven, for sick, lonely, exhausted and troubled crew of all ranks, nationalities and beliefs in over 260 ports in 71 countries.

The programme of ship visiting in port as well as its welcoming centres ashore, brings vital support, care and assurance to seafarers. It is there for those in need 365 days a year, every day of the week. It always ensures that crew can quickly contact their families and when disaster strikes, actively help them get home safely.

# From the Parish Pump

## **Alpha Course in Ghana Prisons**

Michael Kofi Bansah, Director General of Ghana Prison Service, has allowed the Alpha Course to be used in all 43 prisons in the country and instructed all chaplains to attend Alpha, along with volunteer churches. 309 officers and 559 inmates have attended Alpha. Bansah said: 'We cannot afford to miss such an opportunity to bring to faith our unfortunate brothers and sisters in our custody, as part of fulfilling our mandate of reformation and rehabilitation. What the law has failed to do, faith in Christ Jesus can restore.'

## **No New Churches for Sudan**

Sudan's Minister of Guidance and Endowments, Al-Fatih Taj El-sir, who oversees religious affairs in the country, has announced that no new licences for building churches will be issued. He said that no new churches have been established since the secession of South Sudan in July 2011 due to a lack of worshippers and a growth in the number of abandoned church buildings, so there is therefore no need for new churches. He added that freedom to worship is guaranteed in Sudan. Since December 2012, there has been an increase in arrests, detentions and deportations of Christians.

## **Reaching Out to Bangladesh**

FEBA relaunched the Jacob project in Bangladesh in 2012, following further investment in digital media. The Jacob project is a community Internet radio station aimed at urban students which now has over 10,000 Facebook fans. It uses a variety of media platforms and produces blogs, podcasts, discussions, poetry, music and web chat. Taboo Subjects such as harassment, addiction, relationships and abuse are addressed.

## **Charitable Donations Down**

Every three years the Office for National Statistics conducts a household survey on giving to charity, the most recent being for 2012. Some £9,300 million was given to charity by 55% of the British population who give something each month. This amount was 20% down on charitable giving in 2011.

Medical causes received the most donations (33% of the total), while religious causes had 14% of all donations. The total donated by religious people across the whole year, however, was £580, compared with £240 by non-religious people.

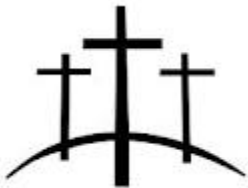


## FREEDOM

Today, in this country, it is quite safe to talk about religion. If you want to go to church or Sunday School you can, and if you don't want to, you are not forced to go. Some people at school or work might poke fun at you for being a Christian but that is all. We can all read the Bible in our own language and are free to ask questions. But it hasn't always been like this.

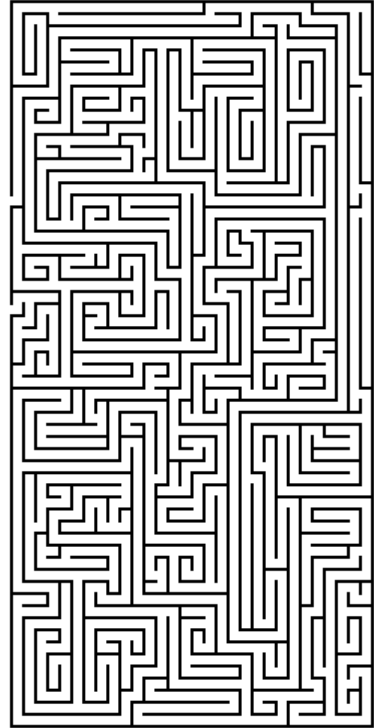
Over the centuries many men, women ... and children suffered for their beliefs. Christians were killed by other Christians who argued that their way was the right way and everyone else was wrong.

Jesus told us that we must love one another – isn't it good that today all Christian churches are working together for peace? And isn't it about time? Nearly two thousand years ago Jesus died for all of us.



## A-MAZING

Can you find your way through this maze? Both the exit and entrance on the left hand side.



Adam and Eve are sitting around Eden when a leaf floats down from a tree. Eve points and says, excitedly: "Look Adam, an invisible man."



What's green, curly and religious?  
Lettuce pray.

# Musk Thistle

This splendid flower, with stems growing up to 1 m (39") tall, may be found on the Great Orme, though the musk thistle (*Carduus nutans*) does not occur as frequently as some of the other thistle species. The musk thistle is usually biennial, surviving over winter as a rosette of spiny leaves and flowering the following year. The purple flower heads with a slightly musky fragrance are quite large at 3 – 5 cm (1¼ - 2") diameter and tend to droop when

mature, giving the plant its alternative name of nodding thistle.

Many thistles are important food sources for wildlife and the musk thistle is visited for nectar by bees, hoverflies and some butterflies or moths, is a food plant for caterpillars of the painted lady butterfly and has seeds which are attractive to birds such as greenfinches and linnets.

The musk thistle is native to temperate



zones of Europe, including the UK, and Asia but has been declared a “noxious weed” in some countries to which it has been introduced, such as the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Like other thistles, the flower head is composed of many tiny flowers and a single head may produce 1200 seeds, while a plant growing in favourable conditions may produce 120,000 seeds.

Each seed has a pappus, or “parachute” of long, whitish hairs which allows it to be carried by the wind, though it has been suggested that most seeds fall fairly close to the parent plant. The musk thistle is particularly effective at colonising disturbed sites or wasteland and seeds may remain viable in soil for up to 10 years. In countries where the

musk thistle is a problem weed it may spread in pasture land as it is unpalatable to most livestock, though I doubt the spines would deter our goats.

Why is the musk thistle such a problem where it’s been introduced but not in its native habitats? As with many introduced species, the answer is likely to be a lack of its native predators. For example, weevils which occur in Europe feed on immature flower heads and have been investigated as potential biological controls in other countries. When we see the flowers here we can enjoy them as part of the ecosystem, knowing that the plants are also providing food for a range of other creatures.

**Christine Jones**

## Coffee Time

**Cryptics (thanks and courtesy Barbara Cartwright).**

All answers begin with ‘T’.

1. Top titles distributed flyer on trial. (9)
2. Loudspeaker will irritate after time. (6)
3. Cat last to peruse large book. (4)
4. One of a pair seen in front window. (4)
5. Maybe attacks or provides support for breakfast food. (5,4)
6. Those darn ferrets have been changed over. (11)
7. Subject set on becoming the mechanical engineer. (5)
8. Attempting to be severe. (6)
9. Suitable epitaph for the ever-faithful cobbler. (4,2,3,4)
10. Ran as a pig might? (7)

Results for May

1. Spiderman
2. Emperor
3. Amigo
4. William Ewart Gladstone
5. Constable
6. Postmaster
7. Astronomer
8. Clint Eastwood
9. Meg Ryan
10. Ranger