

The August Letter

Give us a Clue

It's a lovely summer day and I am sitting on a hammock watching my ever-loving mow the lawn. With the gentle swaying of the hammock and the droning of the mower, I drift into sleep. I decide to ask God two questions, and I say to him "Why is it there is so much aggro in the church? And why is it that you've got such an odd lot of men and women as leaders?"

And He said to me, "That's because I've only got pathetic creatures like you to choose from. But I must admit that you seem to be making a real pig's ear of it. You've got your Evangelicals, Anglo-Catholics, Charismatics, Radicals, Liberals all fighting for supremacy because you think you've got me taped." So I said, "Come on, then. Give us a clue."

"Well, I've been going for a long time, you know; billions of years, in fact. And then, about 3000 years ago, various people started to write down their ideas in what you eventually called a Bible. Mind you, in part 1 they don't give me a very good press, because they give the impression that by twisting my arm I'll slaughter thousands just to please a select few. Take that story about Moses and Pharaoh, for instance. They get me to set up Pharaoh, and when he's about to give way, get me to knock him down again. They accuse me of hardening my heart. Stuff and nonsense! I'm not in the business of taking sides. 2000 years ago you had Jesus. His job was to show people what I was really like; but the stories written up since then give the impression that I'm a show-off, playing with magic and behaving at times like your Paul Daniels. You see, don't you, that I love the world? The whole world. I don't mind if you divide yourselves into different groups in what you call the various religions, providing that those of you who lead the various groups will put on your thinking caps. You know that I'm a fool, don't you? You know that by trying to love people, my nerves are on a knife edge, between laughter one minute and tears the next."

"People are so difficult to love, aren't they?" "Yes," he said. "But you've got the job of a priest and a priest is there to teach about love; my love -

no strings attached. Don't forget that I've been around a very long time. So, trust me."

"You know, don't you, that we just formed a new diocese called West Yorkshire and the Dales, and it has 5 areas: Leeds, Bradford, Huddersfield, Ripon and Wakefield, each with its own area bishop. It is served by 656 churches, with 496 clergy. That means that if all the clergy were in parish ministry, one in 4 of the churches would still be without a parish priest. So, what can we do? Can we get more priests, or must we close churches? The church I attend has not had a full-time priest since the year 2000, and it is very capably run by lay people - especially the churchwardens, treasurers and secretaries who are inundated by the enormous form-filling. The new diocese is in a state of flux and consequently, in many places, the lack of communication is causing strained relationships between the parish and the hierarchy so, God, what can we do?"

"Ah," he replied. "I thought eventually you'd come back to me. You know, don't you, that I gave you free will. The freedom to choose the path you wish to follow. Freedom to think the way you should proceed and for that convenience, you have been given your own computer. Your head will tell you what is right and what is wrong; what is good and what is evil. It's easy to follow - just take a letter from one, and you have Go(o)d. If you take the other course, you add a letter to the opposite - (D)evil. Now get on with it, and remember what I have just told you. There is only one thing that matters in the world that I created and that is the understanding that the most important message given by me to you is the ability to love. Now get on with it."

I heard my name being called, and I was shaken out of my slumber by the world's best lawn-mower expert who handed me a cup of tea. It's a lovely world, isn't it?

Revd. Dennis Shaw

August 8th: Dominic - the saint who believed in learning

For those who enjoy reading the Bible and encouraging others to have faith in God, Dominic is the ideal patron saint. His passion for helping Christians to learn and proclaim their faith led him to found the Order of Preachers, or Black Friars, because of the black cape they wore over white habits. They are also known as the Dominicans.

Dominic was born in Castile in 1170, the youngest son of the warden of the town and nephew to the archpriest of Gumiel d'Izan. Becoming an Austin canon of Osma cathedral, he spent seven years as a priest, devoted to prayer and penance. In 1201 he became sub-prior to his community.

In 1208 the Papal Legate was murdered. It sparked a crusade or 'holy war' against the Albigensian heretics of southern France. Dominic worked for reconciliation, refusing to join in the violence and massacres against them. Instead he used instruction and prayer to woo the heretics back, which led to him playing a leading role in founding Toulouse University. That became the foundation for his work in establishing the Friars Preachers at Toulouse in 1215, which occupied the last seven years of his life. (Three times he refused a bishopric, believing that this work was more important.)

Dominic's 'order' provided communities of sacred learning, with monks devoted to study, teaching and preaching as well as the usual prayer. Dominic believed monks should do more than just commune with God; they should proclaim God's love to others. Dominic was an excellent organiser, and soon his order spread rapidly all over Italy, Spain and France. It met an acute need in the medieval church, and in time the Black Friars became a pioneering missionary force in Asia and even (much later) the Americas.

Dominic travelled widely from 1216 until his death in 1220. His simple tomb was later embellished by Michelangelo, and his usual attributes in art are a lily and a black and white dog, which is a pun (Domini canis) on the name of Dominic. The dog holds a torch in its mouth as a herald of the truth.

AUGUST PARISH DIARY

Saturday 2nd 9.30 a.m. Church garden tidy

SUNDAY 3RD SEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Rt. Revd. Tom Butler*)

Monday 4th 10.00 a.m. WW1 Remembrance open day

Tuesday 5th 11.00 a.m. Holy Communion at Crossley House

7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 6th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's

Thursday 7th 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer

SUNDAY 10TH EIGHTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Revd. Richard and Mrs. Jean Bailey*)

Tuesday 12th 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 13th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

11.30 a.m. Ing's Way Lunch Day

Thursday 14th 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer

SUNDAY 17TH NINTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion (*Revd. Richard & Mrs. Jean Bailey*)

Tuesday 19th 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 20th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion at St. James's

Thursday 21st 9.30 a.m. Morning prayer

SUNDAY 24TH ST. BARTHOLOMEW

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

Tuesday 26th 7.30 p.m. Adult tap dancing

Wednesday 27th 9.30 a.m. Holy Communion

Thursday 28th 9.30 a.m. Morning Prayer

SUNDAY 31ST ELEVENTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

10.00 a.m. Holy Communion

70 years since Anne Frank's diary ended – abruptly

Many people think of Anne Frank as a Dutch girl, but she was born – and died – in Germany. It's now exactly 70 years since she recorded the final entry in her diary while hiding from the Nazis in a secret annex in Amsterdam, which had become her home town after her Jewish family had fled the Nazis.

Her full name was Annelies Marie Frank, and that last entry in the diary given to her by her father was made on 1st August, 1944. She was 15 years old. Three days later her hiding place was raided following a tip-off. She and her family were taken to Auschwitz concentration camp. Anne and her sister were later transferred to Bergen-Belsen, where they died of typhus.

Their father Otto, a former German soldier and businessman who was the only member of his family to survive the death camps, was impressed and deeply moved when he discovered what his daughter had written. He arranged for parts of it to be published, and it is now known universally as *The Diary of Anne Frank*. It has been filmed many times, adapted for the stage and translated into many languages.

It tells the inspiring story of how eight people survived the Nazi occupation of Amsterdam by living for over two years in a dark, concealed part of Otto's company building, protected and fed by – among others – two Christians who ran the company on the owner's behalf.

Throughout the diary runs a thread of faith, hope and love, tinged with despair. A fortnight before she was captured, the teenager wrote: "I feel the suffering of millions. And yet, when I look up at the sky, I somehow feel that everything will change for the better, that this cruelty too shall end, that peace and tranquillity will return."

Barn Dance

Following the success of the barn dance last year, we have decided to have a go at another one and will take the plunge again on Saturday 13th September from 7.00 p.m. There is no need to have any experience - all the dances will be straightforward and instructions will be given. There will be a quiz to entertain the non-dancers - and to give the dancers a bit of a breather! Please bring your own alcoholic/soft drinks to refresh you during the dancing. A light supper will be provided as part of the cost of £3.

Wrong water

A mother was watching her four year-old son playing outside in a small plastic pool half-filled with water. He was walking back and forth across the pool with an expression of great concentration on his face, and making big splashes. Suddenly, the little boy stopped, stepped out of the pool, and with a look of disgust, began to scoop water out of the pool with a pail. "What's wrong, dear?" asked the mother.

"My teacher said Jesus walked on water, and this water doesn't work," he replied.

Scouts and traditional values

Hanging on to traditional values, including the keeping of God in their promise, has not hurt the Scouts; in fact, it has helped the movement grow. So says their Chief Commissioner, Wayne Bulpitt.

Across the country, Scout numbers have risen by almost a quarter in the past decade, and right now membership is at its highest for a generation. Bulpitt says that young people still crave "adventure", and the decision to modernise the movement without abandoning its principles has been a success. UK Scouts now number more than 550,000 members. That is 100,000 more than 10 years ago.

Summer Break

All our activities for children and young people will be having a well earned rest over the summer. The K:Ing's Way Club will re-open on **Thursday 11th September**, at the usual time of 4.30 to 5.30 p.m. The Scout Group will also start their regular meetings again that same week - with the Cubs meeting on **Wednesday 10th** and the Beavers and Scouts the following day. Messy Church will be back with us on **Sunday 5th October** from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. when the whole family is welcome to join us for games, activities, bible songs and stories and food. Free fun for all!

Church Garden

The garden in the church is beginning to resemble a bit of a jungle! It brings to mind the old joke of the man walking his dog who stopped to compliment a householder on his lovely garden saying "You and God have done a wonderful job with that!", to which the householder replied "Yes, but you should have seen it when God had it on his own!"

We have decided a little human intervention is now necessary and will be meeting on Saturday 2nd August from 9.30 a.m. to tackle the worst of the growth and hope the wonderful Scouts who have kindly agreed to paint our fence, will at last be able to see what they have taken on! Tea, coffee and biscuits will, as always, be available to revive weary limbs throughout the morning, so please come along if you can to help. If wet, we will turn our attention to the inside of the church, which also needs a bit of TLC.

Summer Fair

Saturday 12th July dawned bright and fair and remained warm and sunny throughout making our Summer Fair a truly enjoyable occasion. It was wonderful to see so many visitors in our church and the happy buzz of contented conversation as people browsed the stalls, tried their hands at the games or relaxed with refreshments. And, as well as enjoying ourselves, we raised the splendid sum of £620, which will help enormously with our ongoing costs and donations to charity. Thank you to all who so generously donated goods, helped to get things ready, manned a stall and - mostly- came along to support.

A Full Church

Imagine the scene – St Saviour’s Church full of young people, their parents, grandparents, and friends. Fact or fantasy? Well it’s not something that we have seen a great deal of late, but it was our church one day recently.

Sadly not a Sunday service, but still a joy to see so many young people here!

Actually the 46th Bradford North Scout group were holding their AGM and Open Evening. The group, founded in 1944 as 46th Bradford West, have been part of the life of St Saviour’s since the 1970s. Currently 71 youngsters and 11 leaders form the group -12 Beavers, 20 Cubs, 19 Scouts and 20 Explorers. A goodly proportion were present at the meeting showing the audience some of their Groups’ Opening Ceremonies; receiving personal certificates, awards and trophies; being invested into the Scouting movement; and reminding us of the varied and numerous activities and competitions the groups participate in.

We are fortunate at St Saviour’s being associated with such a thriving and dynamic group and thank the leaders for their time and commitment to young people and hope we can ensure they always feel to be a special part of our church.

Kaaren Raistrick

THE WAY I SEE IT: What's in a word?

Canon David Winter, Former Head of Religious Broadcasting, BBC

We were in the supermarket queue. The woman in front of me was greeted by a friend, who asked how she was. 'Well,' she replied, 'I've been under the doctor again with my legs'. Her friend knew what she meant. I knew what she meant and the woman at the till knew what she meant. But try translating that into, say, French: 'J'etais sous le medecin encore avec mes jambes'. Now it becomes utterly baffling, and possibly indecent.

Words are funny things and our use of them even funnier. Most languages, and even local areas, have ways of saying things that are peculiar (in the proper meaning of the word). I remember driving past a scrawled sign at the side of a major road in the north-east where there had been several nasty accidents. 'Gan canny, hinnes', it advised. Clearly 'foreigners' were welcome to kill themselves if they chose.

Mostly our little misunderstandings of what is said or written don't matter, but sometimes they matter a great deal. We ask, in the Lord's Prayer, that God will not 'lead us into temptation'. Why on earth would he want to do that? Later in the Bible we are told quite clearly 'God himself tempts no one. But one is tempted by one's own desire, being lured and enticed by it' (James 1:13). The word translated 'temptation' in the Lord's Prayer really means 'tested' - but every time anyone has tried to change it we all complain. Familiarity always trumps accuracy!

It's also true of familiar sayings. 'The exception proves the rule' is commonly taken to mean that a single exception demonstrates the accuracy of the proposition. In fact, of course, it's the old meaning of 'proves', which is (again) 'tests'. The exception tests the theory. If there's a single exception, then there's no 'rule'.

In practice, we assume that people understand - and if they don't, they very quickly learn. Normally it doesn't matter. One could hear what the woman said in the supermarket queue and remain baffled by her meaning (as many younger people would be) without it affecting us at all.

But sometimes it's important. For instance, Jesus didn't 'come back from the dead'. He rose. Believe me, there's a big difference!

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A Soldier's Bible From World War 1

Ian Mc Alpine.

As we remember the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War it seems appropriate to write about a badly worn New Testament issued to a soldier who fought in that terrible conflict. The little book was on sale at an antiques centre in Mytholmroyd and soon had a new owner. Hundreds of thousands of cheaply produced New Testaments just like it were issued to the British armed forces but very few seem to have survived. I have owned just two, one of which I gave to my distant cousin, Miss Wendy Guest, a World War I historian who said she had never seen one before. They measured just 4" x 2½", had limp cloth bindings and would have easily been lost or destroyed in battle. However, no doubt the little Testaments helped, comforted and encouraged the men who received them in their times of greatest need.

The inside cover of the Testament carried a message from Lord Roberts, reproducing his own handwriting :- *(See illustration inside front cover)*

"25th Aug 1914.

I ask you to put your trust in God. He will watch over you and strengthen you. You will find in this little Book guidance when you are in health, comfort when you are in sickness, and strength when you are in adversity".

The page opposite revealed that the Testament had been issued to Gunner J B Richardson, RGA, 143287, at Ripon on 11th March, 1917. The following page told me that Richardson lived at 4, Lord Mayor's Walk in York. Although Lord Mayor's Walk still exists near the centre of the city I discovered that no. 4 had gone and that its site was marked by a grassy bank. Another address of Mrs J B Richardson appears on the same page - Chestnut Farm, Heslington, Nr York. I have been unable to find this property which may have been demolished when York University was built at Heslington.

RGA stood for Royal Garrison Artillery, the arm of the Royal Artillery that was originally tasked with manning the guns of the British Empire's forts and fortresses, including coastal artillery batteries, the heavy gun

batteries attached to each infantry division, and the guns of the siege artillery. From 1914 when the British army possessed very little heavy artillery, the RGA grew into a very large component of the British forces on the battlefield, being armed with heavy, large-calibre guns and howitzers that were positioned some way behind the front line and had immense destructive power.

I am grateful to Wendy for finding that Richardson received the British and Victory Medals for his war service as would be expected. These were awarded to everyone on active service during the hostilities.

Immediately after receiving the book Richardson and his company left Ripon and embarked on a rather confusing itinerary through England and northern France which Richardson carefully recorded at the back of the Testament:-

10th Mar [1917] Ripon
27th Bexhill
1st May leave to York (!)
4th return to Bexhill (!)
8th to Folkestone
9th to Boulogne
10th Harfleur
12th Le Havre
13th Rouen
14th Etaples
14th Bethune
15th Calonne
16th Rebreuve [illegible]
Berthonvol Farm
St Catherine

Here Richardson reached the bottom of the page and unfortunately did not continue his entries.

It was quite easy to plot most of his journey on modern maps. Richardson's return to Yorkshire early in May seems rather pointless especially since he went back to Bexhill three days later. It looks as if he spent all of April in Bexhill.

Clearly we will never know the full details of Gunner Richardson's part in the War. He seems narrowly to have missed being involved with the engagement at Arras which was close to the area which he visited. However he surely must have seen other action on the Western Front around that time. And at least his treasured New Testament preserves his memory, giving us a shadowy insight into his journey through England and Northern France during that horrific and meaningless conflict whose last survivor died just five years ago.

World War 1 Remembrance

Churches throughout the Diocese are being asked to open on **Monday 4th August** to remember the outbreak of the First World War. St. Saviour's will be open from **10.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.** and anyone is welcome to come in to pray quietly, light a candle for the victims of the war, look at the prayer boards and the displays we have assembled.

Hymn: the Story Behind ... Just As I Am

The hymn 'Just As I Am' must be one of the most famous in the world. It has been sung by tens of millions of Christians at Billy Graham Crusades the world over, just for starters! Yet it was not written by a professional who was 'aiming' at a specific market, as many songs seem to be written today. Instead, it was written by an artist in Victorian times.

Her name was Charlotte Elliott, and she was born in Clapham in 1789. She grew up in a well to do home, and became a portrait artist and also a writer of humorous verse. All was well until Charlotte fell ill in her early 30s, and slid into a black depression. A minister, Dr Caesar Malan of Switzerland, came to visit her. Instead of sympathising, he asked her an unexpected question: did she have peace with God? Charlotte deeply resented the question and told him to mind his own business.

But after he left, his question haunted her. Did she have peace with God? She knew that she did not, that she had done some very wrong things. So she invited Dr Malan to return. She told him that she would like to become a Christian, but would have to sort out her life first.

Dr Malan again said the unexpected: "Come just as you are." The words were a revelation to Charlotte. She had assumed that she would have to put her life in order before she could hope to be accepted by God. Instead, she realised that Jesus wanted her just as she was - and he would take care of the sin. Charlotte became a Christian that day.

14 years later, in 1836, Charlotte wrote some verses that summed up how it had been between her and Jesus that day. They ran:

Just as I am, without one plea, But that thy blood was shed for me, And that thou bids't me come to Thee O lamb of God, I come! I come! Just as I am, tho tossed about With many a conflict, many a doubt Fightings within, and fears without, O Lamb of God, I come! I come!

Charlotte could not have dreamed that 150 years into the future, her verses would be sung by millions of people all over the world, as they responded to the Gospel presented at many great Billy Graham crusades, and made their way forward to do just as the hymn describes - to come to Jesus Christ, despite sin and fear and doubts, to come 'just as I am.'

Known to God

Forgive

Almighty God, most merciful
You know our thoughts and deeds
Our sins have been most plentiful
Forgive, we plead!

Our hearts are far from You, O Lord
You should be first, not last
Our neighbours have not known accord
Forgive our past!

Help us amend what we've become
Direct what we shall be
With justice, mercy, peace we come
Humbly with Thee!

By Nigel Beeton

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Notes from the PCC

At our meeting on Tuesday 15th July, we learned that not a lot of progress has been made with the appointment of a new vicar for St. Saviour's, but it is planned to re-advertise at the beginning of September, so we will see what that brings. Please continue to keep it in your payers.

We have been asked to look at all ways we can reduce our carbon footprint, both as a church and in the wider scheme of things. A small group will look at this important subject and report back to the full PCC with their ideas. As well as this, we are asked to write to our MP to urge them to promote action on climate change issues. Leaflets explaining more about the whole campaign and sample letters for you to copy are at the back of church and more information is available at www.hftf.org.uk

2014 is the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of WW1. The Diocese has asked as many churches as possible to open at some stage on Monday August 4th to enable people to remember this in some way. We discussed how we could be involved and details of what we arranged are on p.13.

We are making progress in obtaining the quotes we need to satisfy English Heritage the claim we have submitted is realistic. Once they are happy, we can begin the process of working through the list of necessary repairs and replacements. The central heating boiler is due to be replaced at the end of July, well in time for the cold weather! Fortunately, it has been mild recently so we haven't noticed the problem. At the same time the ceiling in the kitchen will be cleaned and tiled.

Many of you will remember Audrey Gill who worshipped with us for many years before her death last year. She has left a bequest to the church to be spent on something musical and Joyce Ashton has bought 9 full-music copies of our hymnbook for the choir to replace the worn and repaired copies they were using. They will be very much appreciated.

Hilary Davis, PCC Secretary.

August Roll of Remembrance

2nd	John Brooksbank	(1935)
4th	Clara Willis	(1979)
	Stanley Percival	(1984)
	Elsie Spencer	(1988)
8th	Davina Roberts	(1987)
	Norman Morgan	(2007)
9th	Florence Jenkinson	(1985)
11th	Herbert Wilkinson	(1952)
	Norman Wilkinson	(1985)
	Lena Place	(2003)
12th	John William Teale	(1947)
	Winifred Jennings	(1978)
14th	Edgar Hudson Jones	(1992)
15th	Russell Stead	(1982)
16th	Emily Robertshaw	(1982)
17th	Alice Newsome	(1992)
18th	Dorothy Williamson	(1971)
20th	Haydn Alpin	(1989)
24th	Emily Size	(1975)
	Herbert Curtis	(1984)
	Josephine Singleton	(1984)
26th	Dorothy Smith	(1980)
	Hilda Mary Jones	(2004)
27th	Amy Ridgway	(2010)
29th	Jane Marsh	(1981)

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