

Thought for the Month



A NEW CURATE

On Sunday 3rd July Max Bayliss will be ordained a Deacon at St Albans Abbey and will be coming to join us as our new curate. Although the main focus for his ministry will be at All Saints he will also be involved in various ways in parishes across the team ministry . When you get to meet him, I'm

sure you will give him a warm and friendly welcome.

Much has changed with regard to the training of curates since I was first ordained thirty six years ago. I was a little bit younger than Max is now and the Vicar I worked alongside was the same age that I am now. I feel as though I have gone "full circle"!

Back in 1980, the training I received was rather like osmosis. You took in what the Vicar did at services and then you simply got on and did the same yourself. As far as I can remember my boss never attended any baptisms or funerals at which I officiated to check on whether I was doing them right and he only ever made comment about one of my sermons – which he didn't like! You may think that this "go it alone" approach would have left me with a negative impression of parish life but the truth is that I was very happy as a curate. This was mainly due to our parishioners were very supportive of all their clergy and especially knew how to look after young curates.

My Vicar may not have had time to train his curates but nowadays those who are privileged to be entrusted with the care of a curate are required to make time for them. We are called Training Incumbents and over the past few months we have been required to attend training events ourselves so that we are better equipped to encourage the newly ordained in these early years of their ministry.

The watchword for all Training Incumbents is "supervision". It is expected that we will set aside specific times during each month when we will meet with our new colleague. It isn't only about "showing them the ropes" but it's an opportunity to help them reflect practically, pastorally and theologically on their ministry. Constructive feedback is all important. In addition, Max will also have to attend regular meetings with his fellow curates from around the diocese and must commit to regular in-service training courses as well. In addition, we will both be involved in an annual review process through which the Bishop will decide whether he is ordained as a priest next year and ultimately on his suitability to run a parish of his own.

As you can imagine, I am greatly looking forward to Max's arrival and having another colleague who will share in ministry alongside me together with the other team members. But you can also see that there is far more to his role as our new curate than simply getting on with the job or being an extra pair of hands. At his ordination we pray that the grace of the Holy Spirit will be conferred upon Max. But it's also up to us to help equip him for both his present and future ministry. As his training incumbent I will have specific responsibilities in this regard but we can all provide him with the encouragement and support he needs to be happy and fulfilled in his ministry. It is this ingredient above all that has sustained me in my ministry for the past 36 years and I hope that Max will also find this to be so as well.

God Bless

Grant

(In next month's issue Max will be writing the clergy letter to introduce himself)



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Daytime services at St Leonard's

In addition to the two Sunday services at St Leonard's and the Tuesday evening service (see back page), the church is open for Morning Prayer at 8.45am.

The church continues to be open for visitors all week during daylight hours.

The Parish Registers



Marriage

14th May Ryan James Moxham & Lisa Julie Pamer

Funeral

29th April Leslie Frederick Mills

Confirmations

***24th April Muriel Bridgeford
Linda Page
Richard Page***

Thank you!

We would like to thank everyone who participated in the Frugal Lunch and Charity Auction of Promises on 8th May in support of Christian Aid, as a bidder, a promise, or just as a luncher. It was a fun event and raised in excess of £600 for Christian Aid.

We would also like to thank the many people who helped at the May Fayre on 21st May, on the stalls, in the kitchen, running games, entering dogs in the dog show, helping to set up and clear up at what is the biggest event we hold in the year.

Despite the weather, everyone remained cheerful (well, most of the time!) and we raised more than £1400 towards the maintenance of the church.

Thank you all again for all your help and support., it is appreciated so much!

Badminton Club

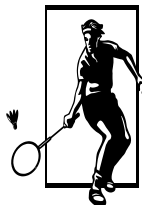
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The Villager

In 1916, the villagers had begun to realise that the War was going to last for a much longer time than many had thought at first and would not be the easy victory that they had imagined.

“The War Budget” publication of January 1916 had advice for soldiers’ wives:

‘For the home folks, who have somehow to carry on the domestic arts as usual and need a few intervals of relaxation which shall not be mere waste of time, it is safe to prescribe a little household reading. Few periodicals can meet this special need as it is met by *The Mother’s Magazine*, a bright monthly, crammed with interest and information.

But there was really no time for relaxation as food shortages were being felt and it was realised that with the men going to war, there would be a shortage of labour on the land. At the behest of the Board of Trade and the Board of Agriculture, working in co-operation with the War Agriculture Committee, villages were being urged to mobilise women to take on some of the tasks. Lectures were given in each village explaining some of the jobs that could be undertaken. It was considered that women could do milking, dairy work and drive milk carts, feed cattle of all sorts, help to thatch, plant beans, trim hedges, spread manure, gather fruit, dig up docks and weeds, hoe turnips and all such work. With regard to horses, some women were afraid but there was no need to be afraid of farm horses. They were really nice animals and one could manage them easily with kindness and a gentle hand. Much preferred to speeding much I should have thought!

What tasks were considered to be unsuitable work for women?

Pitching hay or corn but as elevators for both stacks and carts were now on some farms, a woman could perhaps learn to load and stack. I was reminded of this when I visited Pitstone Green Farm Museum on May Bank Holiday Monday and saw an example of the ‘Coronation’ elevator made by Davis and Bailey of Hemel Hempstead around 1910. This was used with a horse gear or small engine to drive it and hay and sheaves of corn could easily be lifted on to the tall ricks.

Were there any women willing to do something? The food supply of the country was in danger unless women could help replace the men on the land who had gone to fight for their country. The Board of Trade and the Board of Agriculture, who had the matter in hand, would supply suitable boots, leggings etc. for the use of women while at farm work. Women must be suitable clothed and the need not fear the roughest weather.

Many farmers did not welcome women on their farms and some considered a woman’s place was at home and many had large families to look after. I have been unable to find out how many worked on farms in Heath and Reach after that call 100 years ago but perhaps in your family archives you have photos of one of your female ancestors, complete with Wellington boots?

Geoff White

More from the Good Old Days.....

Houses had thatched roofs, thick straw piled high, with no wood underneath. It was the only place for animals to get warm, so all the cats and other small animals (mice, bugs) lived in the roof. When it rained, it became slippery and sometimes the animals would slip and fall off the roof. Hence the saying "It's raining cats and dogs."

There was nothing to stop things falling into the house. This posed a real problem in the bedroom, where bugs and other droppings could mess up your nice clean bed. Hence a bed with big posts and a sheet hung over the top afforded some protection. That's how four-poster canopy beds came into existence.

The floor was dirt. Only the wealthy had something other than dirt. Hence the saying "dirt poor". The wealthy had slate floors that would get slippery in the winter when wet, so they spread "thresh," or straw, on the floor to help keep their footing. As the winter wore on, they added more and more thresh until when you opened the door, it would all start slipping outside. A piece of wood was placed in the entrance. Hence a threshold.

Bread was divided according to status. Servants got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle and guests got the top, or "The Upper Crust".

Lead cups were used to drink ale, the staple drink of the poor as water was often unsafe. Too much of the strong drink would sometimes knock the imbibers out for a couple of days. Someone walking along the road might take them for dead and prepare them for burial. They were laid out on the kitchen table for a couple of days and the family would gather round and eat and drink and wait to see if they would wake up. Hence the custom of "Holding a Wake".

England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people, so they would dig up coffins and would take the bones to a bone house and re-use the grave. When re-opening these graves, one in twenty five of these coffins were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realised they had been burying people alive. So they would tie a string to the wrist of the corpse, thread it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the graveyard shift) to listen for the bell; thus someone could be "Saved by the Bell" or was considered a "Dead Ringer".

And that's the truth!

Afternoon of Quiet Reflection At St Leonard's

with Rev'd Noel McGeeney

Sunday 17th July 2016
Commencing at 12.30pm

Timetable for the afternoon:

12.30pm **Lunch at the Church Hall**
1.15pm **Prayer & Reflection**
3.30pm **Tea & Coffee**
4.00pm **Prayer & Reflection**
5.30pm **Finish**

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HAPPENINGS!



Thursday 9th June
COFFEE MORNING
in the Church Hall
10am - 12.00noon

Friday 10th June
SLAP AGM and Video Evening
'SLEEPING BEAUTY'
In the Church Hall at 7.30pm



Sunday 26th June
OPEN CHURCH SUNDAY
With exhibition of old photos of Heath and Reach
Cream Teas in the Church
3 - 5pm

Sunday 7th August
CREAM TEAS
in the garden of Mr & Mrs Palmer
12 Thomas Street
3 - 5pm

For more information on any of these events,
phone 01525 377047

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**Confirmation Service
24th April**



The Heath Band is always popular!



May Fayre and Village Show 21st May



The grey skies didn't dampen the spirits—the plant stall is always popular

A Warden's Tale.....or.....'going to work on an egg'.

Do you remember the old advert, 'go to work on an egg?' I guess that was all before the salmonella fracas but the point was to outline the importance of starting your day right. Personally eggs are a good option for me. Have you ever had soft boiled eggs with toast and marmite? If you love marmite I can assure you it's great option. If you subscribe to the other side and hate marmite then I'm sorry but that's just plain weird!!!!*

As a Churchwarden there are times when only a full English will do. Tasks like trying to get access to the church tower for a welfare check can be taxing on the brain and much energy is required for all that running around. As it turned out the very generous offer from Niftylift to help us by supplying a lifting platform to inspect the tower proved unsuccessful. We were unable to provide access for the size of machine required to reach the height of the tower. I am rather disappointed as I was looking forward to seeing Brother Bede strapped to the platform and ascending to the tower roof! Hopefully it will be the closest he'll get to heaven for a while yet. As for me, I think I'll keep my feet safely on the ground for now.

Anyway, where there is a will there's a way. Peter Banwell, local businessman very kindly thought to lend us a tiny video camera which will send images to a lap top or smart phone. This will be a much preferred option to a ladder for our architect! All we have to do is get the camera up there, what fun that will be!!

Plans have been drawn up by our architect to begin work on those buttresses and the general problem we have with damp, which starts with the tower. There really is a lot to do in addition to the day to day organisation of church activities. We are very fortunate to have a large group of people who share the job of caring for the church and everyone who attends is more than welcome to get involved in what goes on as much or as little as they would like. The church belongs to each and every one of us and is there for all to enjoy, even if you don't attend services.....yet!!

We had a beautiful confirmation service on 24th April with the Bishop of Bedford. Three people were confirmed from St Leonard's and two from St Barnabas. The Bishop did us proud and led us in a service we could all enjoy, and we certainly did. As per usual, I needed a tissue. Afterwards we had tea/coffee and cake in the church hall. Jill Thomas and Sue Halsted made a fabulous celebration fruit cake which was more delicious and beautiful than any professionally produced one I've ever had. Oh yes, they did us proud. Other people generously made cakes too and the choice was quite amazing. We even gave the Bishop some to take home afterwards!

On Sunday 8th May we had our frugal lunch for Christian Aid. Brother Bede made a wonderful sweet potato soup with bread which actually did not taste frugal at all. We even had cream swirls because Bede always uses excess double cream! Nothing like gruel if that is what should be expected.

Neil Forsyth managed the auction of promises, which included things like trips out, lifts to the airport, an hour's worth of ironing and even coffee and walnut cake! Neil was just so funny as the auctioneer, especially when he asked for bids for him NOT to do an hour's worth of ironing! All told we had a really fun time together and raised in excess of £600 for Christian Aid!

What? Raising money for charity I hear you cry...when you haven't got a jot and all that!! Well, we are called to give, even when we are in need and this is entirely in keeping with our beliefs. Anyway, it works well, we give and we receive, which is only right and fair as Christians. A huge thanks to our fabulous social committee for yet another fun and successful event which focused our actions and our minds on the needs of others.

Ok, so I've talked about boiled eggs, toast and marmite, full English breakfasts and cake so far. All of these are a good option for starting your day off right but there is something else. When Rev Noel came to Heath and Reach he introduced morning prayer at 08:45 each weekday. It's all his fault but now my weekdays just don't feel the same if I can't manage to get there for some reason or another.

Although I'm not entirely sure why, it feels a bit like tying yourself securely to the mountainside before you set off climbing. It keeps me secure and sets me on the right course of the journey that day. If I stumble or fall I have the security of knowing I have tethered myself properly and that all I have to do is tug on the rope and there is my anchor to reassure me.

We pray for those in need in our church community but also for the wider community and for the world. Come along if you'd like and then go home and have those eggs.....what could be better? Oh yes....and don't forget the toast and marmite!!

Val Roberts
Overweight Churchwarden.

(* Marmite—the devil's food. Editor)

Me and my big mouth.....

"Heavier than air flying machines are impossible" Lord Kelvin, President, The Royal Society, 1895

"I'm just glad it'll be Clark Gable who's falling on his face and not Gary Cooper" Gary Cooper on his decision not to take the leading role in 'Gone with the Wind'

"But what is it good for?" Engineer at the Advanced Computing Systems Division of IBM, 1968, commenting on the microchip



St Leonard's Holiday Club

FREE FUN ACTIVITY MORNING

in St Leonard's Church Hall followed by a Picnic
Bring a packed lunch, cold drinks provided

Thursday 2nd June
10-12noon

Activities for 3-9 year olds with accompanying adult

Activities include:
Craft, Singing and lots of fun

Early Booking Essential – phone:
Rosemary Young 01525 237345
or Vera Paul 01525 375095

BEDSIDE MANNER

It seems to me inevitable that as we age, things start going wrong with the super machine we call our body. Thus we find ourselves, willingly or unwillingly, paying more and more visits to the doctor. Nowadays I seem to be a regular in the surgery and try to find a different seat in the waiting room each time, for fear of their naming a seat after me. I do in fact get a cheery “Good morning Mr Hardman!” from the cleaner as she arrives for work! That’s OK with me but I must admit I got a bit miffed when invited to the staff Christmas party.....

Anyway, it struck me, during one of my many examinations, that the doctor needs to be very careful what he or she says, in order not to upset the patient during this procedure. To this end, there is a list of expressions to be avoided, which every doctor knows by heart from medical school. This list, designed to avoid fear and nervousness in patients during examinations, is as follows:

Phrases not to be used during examinations

Oops!

Wow!

What on earth’s that?

Crikey?

Never seen one of those before!

Dearie, dearie me!

Can’t believe it

Whoops!

I assume that both chuckling and hysterical laughter during an examination are also frowned upon....

None of the above has yet occurred during my examinations but I do know from experience that when something is predicted to be ‘uncomfortable’ it is usually really painful as in “you might feel a little prick” (as the needle goes in....)

Good health!

Derek Hardman

Q&A in a recent GCSE examination (true answers!)

- Q. Explain one of the processes by which water can be made safe to drink.
- A. Flirtation makes water safe to drink because it removes large pollutants like grit, sand, dead sheep and canoeists.
- Q. What are steroids?
- A. Things for keeping carpets on the stairs.

There is little hope for any of us!

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We are a small group who enjoy meeting people and
having a chat (maybe over a cup of tea!).

If you or anyone you know is housebound, or might
enjoy some company occasionally, please call Kelly on
07502 320025 and she will put us in touch.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Anne Chapman



**CHURCH COFFEE
MORNING**

CHURCH HALL

Thursday 9th June

10.00am to 12 noon

ALL WELCOME

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Leighton Buzzard Patient Participation Group Network

We would like to update the community on some recent work of the Leighton Buzzard Patient Participation Group Network.

We are very aware that transport to local hospitals and healthcare appointments is particularly difficult for some elderly & vulnerable adults in our community, especially those who find public transport difficult or are unable to get lifts from friends or family. With this in mind, we have set up a working party to address this issue and investigate ways in which we might set up a voluntary patient transport scheme. Similar to those currently running in neighbouring towns and villages. We are currently planning a public meeting which is to be held on Wednesday 22nd June at 2pm – 4pm at Pages Park Pavilion for anyone interested in helping to get the scheme off the ground. We are hoping for volunteer drivers, help with administration, or anyone who is just interested to come along.

LEIGHTON BUZZARD HOSPITAL TRANSPORT

Are you interested.....??

It is hoped to set up a group to provide transport for the elderly and vulnerable to and from local Hospitals.

In this connection we plan to hold a public meeting on 22nd June.

CAN YOU HELP.....??

Are you willing to be a volunteer driver?

Can you help with administration?

Register your interest by sending your contact details to: -

lbht2016@outlook.com

LBHT working group is part of LB PPG Network



St Leonards VA Lower

FETE

Saturday 2nd July
2016



Remembering World War 1



St Leonard's is remembering those on the Heath and Reach War Memorial on or around the 100th anniversary of their death. If you have more information or photographs about those on the War Memorial which you would be willing to share please email remembrance@stleonardsheathandreach.org.uk



112095 Private Harry Money
5th Canadian Mounted Rifles (Quebec Regiment)
killed in action on 5th June 1916 aged 22 years

Harry was the son of Amos and Emma Money of Woburn Road, Heath & Reach and before the war he worked as a welder. Little is known about how he came to be serving with a Canadian Regiment. He is buried in Etaples Military Cemetery.

Sources: www.roll-of-honour.com; www.1914-1918.net; www.bedfordregiment.org.uk
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission

Compelling Thoughts

Sometimes the smallest step in the right direction ends up being the biggest step of your life.

Years of love may be forgotten in the hatred of a minute.

One small crack does not mean that you are broken. It means that you were put to the test and you didn't fall apart. (*Linda Poindexter*)

The meaning of life is to find your gift. The purpose is to give it away.
(*Pablo Picasso*)

New beginnings are often disguised as painful endings (*Lao Tzu*)

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**FREE
PARKING**



St Leonard's Holiday Club Activity Week

Date: August 22 -26 10 – 1pm

Cost: £25 per child for week
(Fee non-refundable and due 1st August)

Venue: St Leonard's Church Hall

Fun packed activities for 4-11 year olds led by experienced leader.

NB 4-6 year olds to be accompanied by an adult

Join us for a celebratory lunch on 26th following activities

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“Like child abuse, loneliness carries a stigma, especially for an older generation too proud to ask for help. I hope by creating a helpline for older people The Silver Line will enable them to break through the stigma of loneliness, and thus save lives and comfort and protect older people in need.” Esther Rantzen.

The Silver Line is a free confidential helpline which provides; information and signposting to services, community and voluntary support across the country; a friendship service to combat loneliness; and a means of empowering those who may be suffering abuse.

If you are feeling isolated or lonely, there is not only the helpline, but a telephone befriending service, where you are matched to a trained volunteer, who will phone on a weekly basis for friendship at a time convenient to you. So if you feel that you would benefit from the services of The Silver Line, please do not hesitate to call our 24/7 helpline on 0800 4 70 80 90.

‘If you think it is for you, it *is* for you’.

St Leonard's Parish Prayer

Living God, you have given us St Leonard
as an example of one who extended himself
to relieve the difficulties of others;
help us to know in our hearts the love you have for us all
so we may reach out in genuine empathy
to those in our community
who feel lonely, isolated, or overwhelmed by grief or loss.
Help us to grow together as a people
united in concern for each other and love for you. Amen

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Rota Reminders



On or For Sun	Coffee (after 11am service)	Cleaning
5th June	A Chapman & S Halstead	A Chapman & S Halstead
12th June	H&R Ramsbotham	
19th June	S Buttery & E Dickinson	R Young & S Darms
26th June	J Thomas & H Clark	
3rd July	J&T Mellodey	G & M White
10th July	A Palmer & L Page	
17th July	S Darms & A Payne	J Thomas & A Gomersall
24th July	A Chapman & S Halstead	
31st July	H&R Ramsbotham	

CALLING ALL RETIRED MEN AND WOMEN!

St Leonard's Old Boys (otherwise known as the SLOBs) are a group of retired folk who meet once a month to help keep the church and hall surrounds tidy

We meet normally on the first Monday of each month and tackle whatever light work is needed at that time followed by a "planning lunch" at the Axe & Compass.

There is no commitment to come every month but only as and when you can and only for two hours.

We meet at the church hall at 10.00am. The next meeting is on **June 6th.**

Everyone welcome!

And finally.....

Thought for the month

Why do we leave cars worth thousands of pounds on the drive or in the road and put our useless junk in the garage?