

The Lighthouse



 THE CHURCH
OF ENGLAND
Diocese of Norwich

Sunday 23 August 2020
Issue 22

‘To know, know, know you is to
love, love, love you...’

The reading for Trinity 11 is Matthew chapter 16 verses 13–20

Dear Friends,

Greetings! There is a vast difference between ‘knowing’ someone and ‘knowing of’ someone. How good are you at recognizing people? How well do you really know people? Rarely a week goes by without some bright spark saying I look like Norman Wisdom. I’m called Norman by some of the Coop staff! Can you recall the Esther Rantzen programme, *That’s Life*? On one occasion, people were asked to name mug shots of famous people. An elderly lady looked at the photo and said, “Is it Angus Biro?” His real name was Spiro Agnew! I know of Harold Wilson – that mac, pipe, and the pound in my pocket, but I never met him; I know very little else about him.

Jesus was in the region of Caesarea Philippi. It sounds a long way off, doesn’t it? It is! It is a region lying on the slopes of the majestic Mt. Hermon, near the Hebrew city of Dan, where worship was offered to the pagan god Pan. Maybe this fact triggered the straightforward question that Jesus asked: “Who do people say I am?” There are three or four wide-ranging answers given: “... John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the prophets”. Jesus then asked a more pointed question: “What about you? Who do you say I am?” It is Peter who hits the bullseye: “You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”

My middle son Jeremy wrote an ‘A’ level essay on John Ruskin. It was an absolutely amazing piece of writing. No staff member could find a source for it, and Jeremy said that he just thought it all out himself.

Jesus tells Peter he was good but not that good. To say ‘You are the Christ’ could only be God given – not revealed by man. Two weeks ago, we found Peter sinking in the water as the waves dragged him down. Here in Matthew 16, Peter is head above the rest. Peter is given the news by Jesus that he will live up to his name: Peter, Petros, Rock. Peter will build up the church – but it will be God speaking through him, just as with the answer he gave.

So, what do you know? More importantly, who do you know? By God’s grace we can know Christ and make him known.

Stay alert – control the virus – save lives – keep your distance – stay close to Christ – it’s who you know that counts!

Blessings,
Derek the Cleric



*Mount Hermon photographed 1855–98 by Francis Frith,
albumen silver print, MoMA*

Photo: public domain

The poetic skill of Henry Vaughan

Thanks to Allan Coleby for sharing the history of this poem with us. Henry Vaughan was writing in 1650.



When we sing hymns about the relationship of God, Nature and Man, we have the experience of the music, or at least the memory of the music, to enhance our response to the words. This is so in such a hymn as:

O Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder
Consider all the works Thy hand hath made.

When, however, we have only the words to facilitate our understanding of the writer's thoughts, the author needs much more skill to evoke in us a full grasp of the meaning.

Very few poets are equal to the task, but the one I most admire is Henry Vaughan, a little-known poet of the seventeenth century, who did not write hymns, as did his much better-known contemporary, George Herbert.

Vaughan worked as a doctor in South Wales, but he was also an Anglican and a mystic (in the technical sense). He believed in God as the creator and binder of all things through the Spirit of the Universe. God, Man and Nature have an active relationship of 'sympathy' which circulates between all the various planes of existence. He is not a pantheist, seeing God in all things, but a Christian who sees all things in God. Here is the beginning of one of his best poems entitled 'The World':

I saw Eternity the other night
Like a great ring of pure and endless light,
 All calm as it was bright,
And round beneath it, Time, in hours, days, years,
 Driven by the spheres
Like a vast shadow moved, in which the world
 And all her train were hurl'd.

He then considers people who play different roles in the world: the lover, the statesman, the rich man, the miser and the hermit. He then concludes:

But as I did their madness so discuss, one whispered thus,
This ring the Bridegroom did for none provide, but for his Bride.

It is best not to analyse the imagery in that first verse, but to absorb it and look at it – in awe.

–Allan Coleby

Ideas for prayer

- + all those affected by the coronavirus
- + our NHS workers and those in care homes
- + our Government and advisors in making decisions for our nation
- + for wisdom and patience in dealing with the many changes to our ways of life
- + our public church service, for all working to make it happen and all who attend
- + our online worship service and fellowship, our online worship team, and all who attend
- + our first outdoor worship service at Anmer on 30 August and all who attend
- + all those helping with community events: the Sponsored Bike Ride/Walk and Open Gardens
- + our children and their parents
- + our young adults leaving school or college during this time of uncertainty
- + our teachers in all that they do
- + those working in essential services
- + those who have lost their jobs
- + those who are adjusting to new ways of working
- + those who are suffering any injustice – racial, social, economic
- + those facing any illness or medical treatment
- + those who feel isolated
- + wisdom in opening church buildings safely, and our Diocesan leaders in guiding the way ahead
- + couples waiting to get married in church
- + families bereaved at this time and those not able to use the church as they would wish to
- + our church community

We give thanks for:

- + examples of forgiveness and God's help for our own situations
- + God's word and his forgiveness of us
- + freedom to know the light of God's love through his Spirit
- + opportunities to serve others and share God's love
- + the beauty of the coast where we live, gardens, greenspaces and summertime
- + progress in understanding and treating the coronavirus
- + our families and friendships
- + small seeds of thought that lead us to faith in Christ



St Mary's Anmer

Photo: Church of England website

Outdoor Service at St Mary's, Anmer, on 30th August 2020

On Sunday 30th August at 10 am we will hold a Benefice Service of Morning Prayer in Anmer Churchyard. This Service follows the traditional form in the *Book of Common Prayer*.

You are invited to bring your own Prayer Book – if you don't have one, we'll provide you with one.

Please bring a chair!

If you plan to attend, please contact Pauline Martin on 01485 544561 or secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk to book as usual.

Wordsearch

This week's puzzle from Carol: all the words in this puzzle can be found in Matthew chapter 16 verses 13–20.

E	M	R	E	T	E	P	S	H	O	S	J	C	H	CAESAREA
L	C	E	J	H	F	R	J	A	S	Y	A	E	S	JOHN
F	D	N	E	I	S	R	E	E	J	E	A	E	Y	JEREMIAH
S	E	J	H	R	R	S	O	E	S	V	D	H	E	ELIJAH
I	T	S	I	R	H	C	R	A	E	S	V	L	K	PROPHET
N	J	O	H	N	A	E	R	N	T	A	K	P	M	SIMON
P	B	E	A	T	M	E	D	E	E	Y	H	O	O	PETER
E	R	R	L	I	A	T	B	L	E	S	S	E	D	CHRIST
N	M	O	A	I	E	A	F	A	T	H	E	R	G	BLESSED
O	D	H	P	P	J	E	S	A	S	I	N	S	N	FATHER
M	E	P	J	H	H	A	J	S	E	Y	O	Y	I	HEAVEN
I	R	D	Y	E	E	N	H	S	A	R	O	L	K	KEYS
S	S	S	S	S	C	T	H	M	E	G	K	O	N	KINGDOM
T	A	E	O	J	N	S	H	E	I	A	A	O	E	SAY

A film about forgiveness

Last week, Derek mentioned Eric Lomax's book *The Railway Man*, and how Eric, a Christian and WWII prisoner of war on the Burma railway, found and forgave the man who tortured him.

The film (which contains some violent scenes as it retells Eric's story) is currently available on BBC I-Player.



Source: BBC

Stopwatch:
how quickly can you
solve these anagrams?

KING NOW
A SEA ACRE
APT BITS
ELY BLUES
THE PROPS

(All are words found in Derek's Letter. Answers, last page.)

“And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins.”

–the words of Jesus. Mark 11:25

Dersingham Open Gardens 5th/6th September 2020

Thanks to Katrina for sending us this news.



The Church Catering team will be providing refreshments for this event in the Village Hall and would welcome donations of cakes, small buns, and scones. The cakes can be either decorated or undecorated.

These can be brought to the Village Hall on the Saturday morning any time after 9.30 am or delivered to me (Katrina, 19 Queen Elizabeth Drive, Tel no. 544773) on the Friday, 4th September. Please put them in tin foil or in a plastic bag/cling film (not in a reusable container, as we can't return these to you).

If possible, could you let me know what you intend to donate so I can have some idea of quantities. Any problems with delivering please ring.

Many thanks and hope to see you on the weekend.

(Please be advised all social distancing and Covid-19 safety rules will be adhered to in the Hall.)



Dersingham

OPEN

GARDENS



Sat/Sunday
September 5/6
11am - 5pm



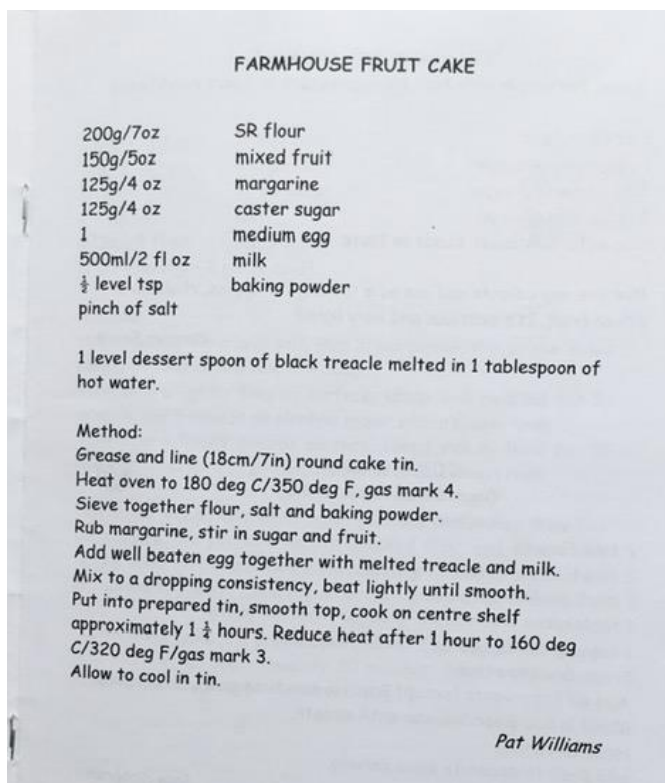
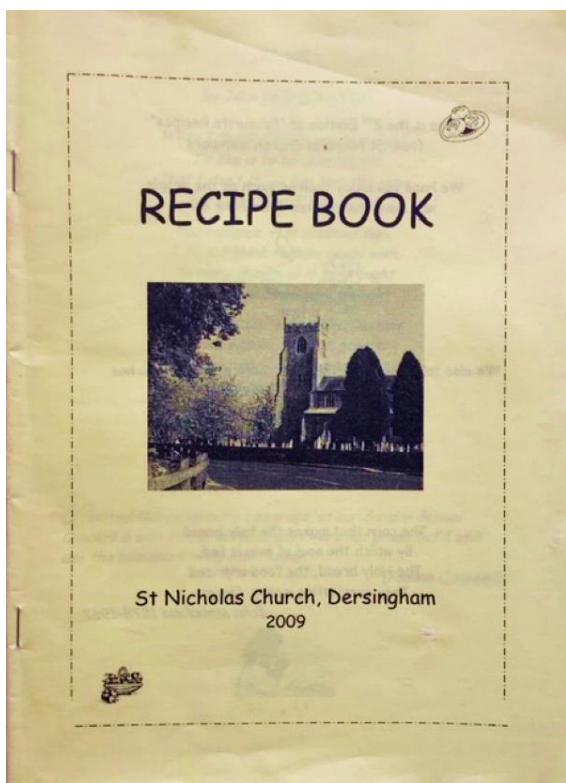
Tickets £5.00 from Dersingham Village Centre and are valid for both days

Refreshments at Dersingham Village Centre
Manor Road

www.DersinghamOpenGardens.co.uk

Recipes from the archives!

Do you have a copy at home too? I found this St Nick's Church *Recipe Book* from 2009 while looking for something else. Many tasty cakes and dishes to be found in here...



Reminder

Please remember to book in advance if you plan to attend the Sunday in-church worship service at 10 am in St Nicholas Church, Dersingham.

You will need to book in advance each time.

To book, please contact Pauline Martin on 01485 544561 or secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

*Anagrams:
knowing,
Caesarea,
Baptist,
bullseye,
prophets*

*With help from:
anagrammaker.com*



Announcement for Sunday 6th September

A service of Holy Communion will take place on Sunday 6th September at 10 am in St Nicholas Church, Dersingham.

Only the bread will be distributed to the congregation.

If you plan to attend, please contact Pauline Martin to book as usual: 01485 544561 or secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk

Bring a cushion...

You may wish to bring a cushion if you are coming to church for the service or for private prayer, as we've removed all the pew cushions for ease of cleaning!

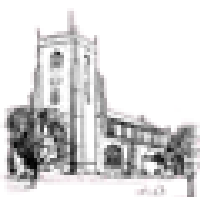
Face coverings

Please be aware that the Diocese have now said that we should be wearing masks (face coverings) in church for our services, but if you have any health problems and are unable to wear one, please be assured that you will be very welcome in church without one.

Contactless payment

At our in-church services, we would welcome you making your Giving by Contactless Payment, which will be available on the front desk as you come in. Just set the machine to the amount you wish to give and scan your card.

Those who are unable to get to the service and would like to make a donation, please contact the Treasurer, Pat Oughtibridge, c/o the church office at 01485 544561 or email secretary@stnicholasdersingham.org.uk



www.stnicholasdersingham.org.uk
dersinghamonlineworship.com

