



Benedict and Bede

NEWS and VIEWS

May 2019



A Prayer from Christian Aid

God of reconciliation and grace,
you promise us a world where all is new,
where love is born when hope is gone,
where broken relationships are restored to wholeness.

May we live as people who know your story of love,
and we have the vision to imagine what could be possible
if we dared to live this story.

God of abundant life,
may we be witnessess of love, hope and peace,
and co-creators of your life in the world.

Amen

Christian Aid Week 12th-18th May 2019

Notre-Dame



One of the first places that Susan and I visited after we got married was Paris. In those days I hadn't travelled much and to go to the continent was quite an adventure. There were many sites that I wanted to see and very high up on the list was Notre Dame. I still have the photographs that Susan took of me standing with the gargoyles on the west front. Fantastic beasts that could so easily have been in JK Rowling's novels. So like many others there were feeling of tremendous sadness when news came through of that terrible fire. The aerial picture of the cathedral, a flaming cross will stay with me for a long time. As I write this it is early days, the extent of the damage has to be assessed.

It is clear that much of the roof has been destroyed but it is less clear how much of the ancient stonework has been damaged by the extreme heat.

Nearly 34 years ago, and not long after Susan and I married the church where I was serving as a curate was severely damaged by fire. Medieval like Notre Dame it was full of treasures including a fantastic angel roof. One of my abiding memories is picking up falling wooden angel feathers from the floor once the fire had been extinguished. At the time all of us felt a tremendous feeling of bereavement, but restoration and renewal followed. Today if you visit All Saints the legacy of the fire has skillfully been eliminated due to the skill of engineers and craftsmen in wood and stone.

It is Eastertide and just a week into June we celebrate Pentecost, the birthday of the Church both are reminders that even where there is tragic loss there can be hope, especially when people work together, as a team. I am sure Notre Dame will rise again from her ashes and will continue to witness to Jesus resurrection for centuries to come.

Paul Brown

Christian Aid Week

12th - 18th May 2019

Christian Aid Week: 'All mums should live'

Jebbeh's story

Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum. Every day 10 women die from giving birth. In Sawula district, the community struggle with a clinic which has no electricity and only two delivery beds.

Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but as her baby grows it's not joy that fills her heart, but fear. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun to the nearest hospital. The journey was long and with every step Fatmata struggled to keep walking.

Jebbeh told us: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.'

This Christian Aid Week, together, we can make childbirth safe for mums and babies. Through our gifts and prayers, we can help give the world's poorest mums a chance to live.

Stand with mums.

About Christian Aid

We have more than 70 years' experience of working in partnership to support communities to thrive. We tackle the root causes of poverty so that women, men and children the world over are strengthened against future knocks. And if disasters happen, we get people the help they want straight away.

Read about our aims and values on our website.

www.christianaid.org.uk.



(editors note : The stained glass window in this picture is an example of stained glass art not the one to be found in St Benedicts)

I have always admired the stained glass windows we have in St Benedict Biscop and have decided to investigate them.

St Benedict Biscop is the patron saint of stained glass makers and the window at the west end of the north aisle contains many references to him.

This window is dedicated to
Susan Brown

(Just to be sure ,we are looking at the window above the hospitality corner)

The window was designed and created by Graham Chaplin of Hednesford stained glass in 2006 and consists of three lancets.

The left hand lancet contains a Celtic Cross like the one in St. Peter's Wearmouth ,this is where St Benedict came from.

This was a Benedictine Double Monastery founded in AD 674-5.

It became a double house with the foundation of St. Pauls Jarrow in AD684-5 (A double monastery combines a separate community of monks and one of nuns joined in one institution.) Either an Abbess or an Abbot would normally have control over both houses.(It was only in exceptional circumstances that each would have its own superior) The monastery was disestablished in 1536.

These two monasteries were some of the first stone buildings to be built in an English Kingdom. England had no masons so Benedict brought masons from Francia. He also wanted glass windows which were also then unusual in England so he brought in glass makers also from Francia. The glassmakers had a workshop at Monkwearmouth on the River Wear near to the monastery.

Benedict was well travelled in mainland Europe and brought books and other materials from Rome and Lerins Abbey. He also persuaded John the arch canton of St Peter's Basilica in Rome to come to teach plainsong at the abbey.

The library Benedict had created on his travels to Rome and then given to the monastery made it not only a cradle of English Art but of English literature.

Important associated figures at this monastery were Ceolfrith and Bede. Ceolfrith was born a Northumbrian of noble birth. He was ordained priest at the age of 27. He soon became a prior and in 676 superior of the community whilst St Benedict Biscop was away in Rome.

He became the first abbot at the monastery in Jarrow, although a plague killed off most of the monks who could read or sing. Only Ceolfrith and the boy Bede were left.

Jarrow is where Bede had his early education under Ceolfrith's patronage and lived, wrote and died as a monk. By his death Bede had established himself as England's leading scriptural and historical authority

I hope this article has whetted your appetite's for more of the same

Carol Porter



Christian Aid week 12th to 18th May.

Volunteers are required to help with the distribution of envelopes..

If you feel you could spare a little time,
Susan Williams would be grateful of any help you could offer.

Please contact Susan on 01902 326529.



Buddy bag foundation

Imagine if your whole world changed in a day.
Imagine having to leave everything you own and everyone you know
you may be shocked to learn that

48,000 children require emergency accommodation in the UK each year.

Children fleeing violent situations often have to leave home quickly, without the chance to collect basic items. These children arrive in emergency accommodation with just the clothes they are wearing. We have created the Buddy Bag foundation in response to the rising number of children who enter emergency care after fleeing violent situations at home. Restoring a sense of safety and security into a child's life during a traumatic time is one of the first steps to recovery. By providing these children with a few essential items, we can help make the transition into emergency care a little easier.

What is a Buddy Bag?

A Buddy Bag is a backpack that contains all the essential items a child needs. They include toiletries, pyjamas, socks, and underwear. They also include comfort items such as a book, a photo frame and a teddy bear. A Buddy Bag is something a child can call their own, no matter where they go.

Buddy Bags are tailored to suit babies, children and young people according to age and gender.

How can you help?

Due to the nature of our foundation and appeal we are always looking for help from individuals and businesses.

Whether you have some spare time and skills, items or cash to donate, all is welcome.

For more information. Please see the 'How can I help' document on our website or email hello@buddybagfoundation.co.uk

www.buddybagfoundation.co.uk/howcanihelp

(Thanks to Janet Lailey who brought this to our attention following a recent visiting speaker at the Church Wives group)

Our Bishop writes.....

It doesn't seem such a great time to be around just now, if we are honest. Violent crime is daily reported from our cities. Our political processes seem paralysed. Antisemitism, Islamophobia and hate crime continually resurface. People bitterly divided in their views insult and mock one another on social media. Our environmental crisis deepens inexorably ... and so one could go on, and on. It is not surprising that so many feel anxious, disillusioned or fearful of our present state, and look back to better times, despairing of the future.

Two people were feeling pretty much like that two thousand years ago, trudging along a road near Jerusalem. 'We had hoped that we had found somebody who would restore our kingdom', they said to a stranger who joined them. 'We had hoped ...' – what sad words those are, but how accurately they sum up the feelings of so many people today.

But the wonder of Easter is, that all that negativity changed through those two people's encounter with the stranger. Their hearts burned within them as he spoke to them of hope and a new future. He opened their eyes to new life when he broke bread with them, and they went back to the city full of joy. He had showed them that death, despair and decay did not have the last word. They knew that he had passed from death to life, and he wanted to take them with him on the same journey. That message of hope still echoes in our own society, and it still challenges us to bring new life and new possibilities into our tired world. We can take simple actions to help restore our kingdom: take the time and trouble to get to know someone from a different background to ourselves; listen carefully and respectfully to views with which we strongly disagree; look out for a neighbour who is hurting and care for them; help out at our foodbank or night shelter; make 'green' choices in our lifestyle to reduce, reuse and recycle ... and so one could go on, and on. When we act in these ways, we are helping to bring into the world the new life and hope which Easter promises to us all.

Rt Revd Dr Michael Igrave
Bishop of Lichfield
Easter 2019

BENEDICT & BEDE NEWS FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

Items for inclusion in the **July 2019** bulletin must reach us by 19th June please contact:

Sylvia Cowling - 01902 892691 or **Joyce Hodgetts: 01902 894758** We welcome items by email but please send only Publisher, Word or plain text.
wombournebulletin@gmail.com

Jesus Loves Us All

"By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another." John 13:35 (NIV)

Based on John 13:31-35



D W A J E W S C C N T O I F C
 F L N P I P F L O O K O A A D
 X O E Y J P N R X S J C L Y Q
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 D R V O P A R C H I L D R E N
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DISCIPLES	LOOK	CHILDREN	GLORIFY	LOVE
COMMAND	LITTLE	MEN	JEWES	GIVE
ANOTHER	JESUS	LONGER	TOLD	KNOW

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