

St. Peter's Caversham
The Pebble

5 May 2013

Easter Six

Presence

I pray and incur silence.
Some take that silence for refusal.
 I feel the power
That, invisible, catches me
By the sleeve, nudging
 Towards the long shelf
That has the book on it I will take down.
And read and find the antidote to an ailment.
 I know its ways with me;
How it enters my life,
 Is present rather
Before I perceive it, sunlight quivering
On a bare wall.
Is it consciousness trying to get through?
Am I under regard?
 It takes me seconds to focus,
by which time it has shifted its gaze,
Looking a little to one side, as though I were not here.

It has the universe
 To be abroad in.
There is nothing I can do
But fill myself with my own silence,
hoping it will approach
 like a wild creature to drink
there, or perhaps like Narcissus
to linger a moment over its transparent face.

R S Thomas

A Warm Welcome

to all who are sharing with us in worship today. The Ministry of Healing and Wholeness is offered in the Lady Chapel during Communion. Everyone is warmly invited to Morning Tea in the Parish Lounge after the Solemn Sung Eucharist this morning

The Liturgy for Today:

8:00 am Holy Eucharist (1662 Book of Common Prayer)

10:30 am Solemn Sung Eucharist

HYMNS:

475 Ye holy angels bright

431 O Thou who camest from above

371 He wants not friends that hath thy love

112 Jesus lives! Thy terrors now

READINGS FOR TODAY

[Acts 15: 1-2, 22-29](#)

[Revelation 21: 10-14, 22-23](#)

[John 14: 23-29](#)

READINGS FOR NEXT SUNDAY:

[Acts 1: 1-11](#)

[Ephesians 1: 17-23](#)

[Luke 24: 46-53](#)

Organ Postlude: *Tuba Tune* C.S. Lang (1891-1971)

Parish News

Today's sermon is entitled, "Interpreting the Interpreter," and focuses on the Holy Spirit's role as the unscrambler of misunderstandings about God's communications with the human race through his Son the Word, who is in himself God's explanation of what he is up to in seeking out and saving us.

Red Cross Choir This morning we welcome the Red Cross Choir at the 10.30 am Service to enrich and inspire our

worship. We look forward to an opportunity to meet them personally over morning tea after the service.

The Fourth Caversham lecture will be on Tuesday. The Vicar will continue his series on framers of Anglican identity by talking about Richard Baxter, the Vicar of Kidderminster, and an outstanding Puritan Divine. He lived through the tumultuous era of the Cromwellian Protectorate when for 15 years the Church of England was abolished, and then the aftermath of the Grand Ejection when, after the restoration of the monarchy, all those clergy who could not accept Episcopacy and the Prayer book were driven from their livings. Baxter tried to chart an eirenic middle path between these extremes, and as such represents an alternative Puritan future that might have been. By seeing off the Puritans the Church of England declined their methods of becoming a disciplined, confessional and pastorally effective Church. Had it therefore condemned itself to becoming a Church of lukewarmness and mediocrity? Richard Baxter wrote the first and the third hymns we are singing today. The lecture will be given at 2 pm in the hall for those who do not like to travel at night, and will be repeated at 7.30 pm

Big days in May (and June) We will celebrate the Ascension next Sunday 12 May, the Vigil of Pentecost on Saturday evening 18 May using the Liturgy of St Basil followed by a potluck dinner, then follows Pentecost Sunday 19 May, Trinity Sunday 26 May, Corpus Christi 2 June. On Saturday evening 1 June we will have the second in our continuing annual series explaining the origins of the Eucharist, which will include an appropriate liturgy, some teaching, and a shared meal. This is called the Agape banquet.

Pentecost Vigil readers requested Please sign the notice on the Link noticeboard if you are available to read a lesson at the Pentecost Vigil Service on Saturday evening 18 May at 6 pm.

May concert Please mark in your diaries Saturday 11 May when Arnold Bachop will lead another of his popular concerts at 2 pm. This one will include renowned soprano, Judy Bellingham and world-class cornet virtuoso John Lewis among the guest artists. It is anticipated that this event will complete our fundraising to pay for the interior painting and redecorating of the hall. Entry by programme, \$10 at the door.

Parish AGM Last week's parish AGM elected Kate Paterson as the People's Warden, David Hoskins and Ian Condie as the Synod representatives, and David Scoular, and Joy Henderson to the Vestry. Kate, Ian, and David Hoskins are of course Vestry members also, as is Tubby Hopkins who continues as Vicar's Warden.

Pray for the Sick and Infirm Rita Marlow, Claire Johnson, Hannah Scott, Cherry Gordon, Juen Miyagi, Joan Butcher and Denise Walker.

Pray for those who have died especially those whose memorial occurs at this time: Alan Chetwin, Glenda Thomas, Emily Idour, John Beatty, Eileen McLeod, John McGlynn and Louise Lewis.

Harvest Festival Our annual harvest festival Service will take place on Sunday 6 October. Usually it takes place in the Easter season but the remainder of Paschal time is filled with major celebrations as listed above, so harvest festival has been rescheduled to the spring.

Heat pumps shifted Two heat pumps were shifted from the Vicarage to the Church just over a week ago, and are in operation this morning.

Parish Contacts:

Parish Priest: Fr. Hugh Bowron – 455-3961

Vicar's Warden: Tubby Hopkins – 454-2399

People's Warden: Kate Paterson – 455 5384

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