



this  
month  
includes...

Rector's Journal

Welcoming *by Tamsin*

Nature Notes  
*by Margaret S*

Hymnwriters *by Robin*

plus

*Transfiguration*

August 2023

## As God sees us ...

**Wednesday:** A bit put out to read a report of a fight in a cinema. Not bothered about the fighting but the victim was described as “elderly”. He was 63 - just one more year than me. And I am appalled to think that the Daily Mail classifies me as old. I’m still a youngster in the Guardian where the readership of teachers and social workers goes on for ever and ever amen. But my delusion about my youthfulness is just a symptom of what’s wrong with human beings.

I now find myself taking communion to, what I think of as, the real elderly. When I leave the house, one of them accuses me of having it away with a china teacup. Strange how I see myself as young, and one of my flock see me as *Burglar Bill*. **Who are we?** Are we the construct of our own fantasies? Or are we something very different; the impression we give to others?

We can pretend to ourselves that we are still young... we can't stop others seeing a living fossil. Grandchildren learn about dinosaurs at school, and who can blame them for the confusion when they see granny without her make-up?

**Sunday:** A useful correction to delusions is the **mirror**; and, honestly now, which of us spends a lot of time in front of these torture devices? The Bible mentions mirrors, especially in today's reading from St James. Of course, mirrors then were usually polished stone or metal, and that gave a flattering, candlelit effect. So if you were St James you would only see a dim image. Instead, he says, look into the “perfect law”. In other words, if we **look at ourselves as God sees us**, we don't deceive ourselves, and we are not judged by others, we are given a freedom to **be the creation that God wants us to be** – and **He loves it**;



Mark

image by nikapeshkov on Freepik

I asked my children what the word **welcome** means.

Tatiana's response was that it means "**come in, have some fun, settle down**", and when she was asked who welcomes her she said "**Mummy, Daddy and God**". Barnabas when asked said "**so it's when you welcome someone into a place and make sure they are happy wherever they are**". When he was asked what places make him feel welcome he said "**church, home, school, my clubs, clubs, because someone is always there who is older than me to make sure I am ok**". Edmund simply said "**welcome everyone in, like to a party**".



The word welcome is a positive word, a warm word, friendly and kind. Welcome, to my children, is defined by happiness and safety, by someone looking after them. They are looking to be welcomed and to belong. I don't think that changes as we get older, if anything I think it becomes stronger. We want to feel welcome, we want to belong, we want people to want us. **As Christians we know God is there for us**, he is that "older person" looking over us making sure we are looked after.

However as an adult I don't always feel welcome. Sometime I stop myself doing things for fear of not being welcome. Sometimes as adults we fear rejection, fear not belonging to something. Sometime you feel hesitant to talk the person right next to you, but you don't need to be, especially not here. **If they are here and trusting in Christ, they are your family**, they share your beliefs. We should have the **confidence** to welcome them boldly.

I was given this job to open the doors of the church and to welcome more families in. Not just the first time they come, but to make them feel that whenever they come, they belong, they are welcome and they are safe here. **It is our job as a church family to make sure we all give welcome** - not just to the new people but to those who have been here centuries too. To be welcoming doesn't necessarily mean to say "welcome" - sometimes it can be just seeing someone and giving a small wave or a nod. A welcome can be noticing someone's new dress, noticing they have not been here for a while, giving a smile. We all have busy lives, and sometimes we are so busy we forget to look at what is around us, to open our arms to others, to **welcome others** in - even if they have always been there, even if they are not sure, even if they have not been before and may never come back. **We need to remember to welcome unconditionally.**

On the weekend of Pride, a celebration of diversity, it reminds me that Jesus didn't discriminate. **He welcomed those who needed welcoming.** People were shocked when Jesus healed the sick woman, the man with leprosy and the many others who came to him for healing and were received by him. He did those things to guide us, to encourage us, that **the strangers who we cross paths with deserve to be welcomed by us**, no matter who they are. Let's welcome and appreciate those around us. **Let's welcome generously.**

*If you want peace, you don't talk to your friends. You talk to your enemies.*





Were you perhaps named after a family member or particular person? Does your name have a special meaning (like Peter meaning *Rock*)? Have you been given a nickname by your friends, or perhaps a special name used only by your family? Sharing a surname can emphasise a bond between relatives – but let's always remember we are privileged to share the most important name of all: **each one of us is a child of God**, a brother or sister of Jesus, and so whatever you are called day to day, **you are bound in love and forgiveness** to all those who share with you the name of **Christian**, as fellow members of God's family.

## What's in a name?

Make allowance for each other's faults, and forgive anyone who offends you. Remember, the Lord forgave you, so you must forgive others. *Colossians 3.13*

## Hymn Writers part 4

*an occasional series by Robin Leleux*

### Catherine Winkworth 1827-78

August: summer (usually) at its height, holidays undertaken, harvest under way, so time for rejoicing; what better hymns in the Anglican hymnbook to sing than two translated from the German by Catherine Winkworth: **'Now thank we all our God'**, and **'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty'**. Born in London, her family soon moved to Manchester (where Catherine was educated by two leading Unitarian ministers), before moving again, to Bristol. Catherine then spent a year in Dresden and, as part of her German studies, she became very interested in the popular **Lutheran hymns**. She

**6<sup>th</sup> August: The Transfiguration**  
*the meeting point of temporal and eternal,  
 Jesus himself the connecting point,  
 acting as the bridge between heaven and earth.*

For that one moment, 'in and out of time',  
 On that one mountain where all moments meet,  
 The daily veil that covers the sublime  
 In darkling glass fell dazzled at his feet.  
 There were no angels full of eyes and wings  
 Just living glory full of truth and grace.  
 The Love that dances at the heart of things  
 Shone out upon us from a human face  
 And to that light the light in us leaped up,  
 We felt it quicken somewhere deep within,  
 A sudden blaze of long-extinguished hope  
 Trembled and tingled through the tender skin.  
 Nor can this blackened sky, this darkened scar  
 Eclipse that glimpse of how things really are.

*Malcolm Guite*

sensitively **translated** these, publishing several collections (including their German hymn-tunes) which went through many editions. This popularised German hymns in English, which led to her memory being venerated by Lutherans in America. (*Listen at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqGWTJsAwKw](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aqGWTJsAwKw)*) Catherine strongly promoted **female education**, being closely associated with girls' schools around Bristol, and her work to make higher education accessible to women helped lead to the founding of Bristol University. **Decent housing for the poor** was another of her active concerns.



In 1842 General Napier controversially extended British rule in India by conquering *Sindh*. Catherine, then aged 16, commented that Napier should have telegraphed his achievement in one Latin word – peccavi – meaning 'I have *sinned*', a pun but also a mild reproof. She sent the joke to Punch and it became universally known, often being ascribed to Napier himself.

## Wulfherans

Our annual Afternoon Tea was on 4th July and as usual the food was wonderful. Grateful thanks must go to all concerned. We were treated to some very pleasant music played by Judith and Margaret.

**Next meeting is a BBQ at 6pm, Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> Aug** (it's Yorkshire Day!)

Members and guests, book your places asap!



**Annual Summer BBQ**  
on Church Field (or in hall if wet)  
adults £12.50  
children (6-16) £8

bring your own WINE

phone Joy to book 07941 019 493

All members and guests welcome!

### From the Registers

#### Baptisms

July 2 Maisie Atkins

July 16 Frank Airey

#### Wedding

July 22 Andrew Brightman and Alice Davis

*"Be kind whenever possible. (It is always possible.)"*  
*The 14th Dalai Lama.*

## Peace point

*'Our ancient ancestors were not innately warlike, and neither are we. Foresight has a huge role in developing a positive future. Beyond war there is a vast human potential for peace.'*

*Douglas P. Fry*

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## Find out more


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For up-to-date details of all services and activities, please look at our website, follow us on  Facebook or pick up a "What's On" leaflet.

**Everyone is welcome** and you can also join with St. Peter's online; we livestream many of our services to our  Facebook page, so take a look.

You can also follow  **C.a.f.e** – children and family events at St. Peter's Addingham

**You can watch all St. Peter's Podcasts at**  
[vimeo.com/showcase/10274277](https://vimeo.com/showcase/10274277)

## Nature Notes for August Margaret Spencer

I do so enjoy the Yorkshire Post features about nature, including some lovely pictures of **kestrels**. (You can find out more about kestrels at [www.birdfact.com](http://www.birdfact.com) )



credit : birdfact.com

Hovering Kestrel

Here in my home village of Silsden I can hear a **wood pigeon** softly cooing in a rather sleepy way among the trees. (Can you identify its call? Listen here: [www.british-birdsongs.uk/wood-pigeon/](http://www.british-birdsongs.uk/wood-pigeon/) )

Here are some **seasonal updates** to my previous notes : **sparrows** are now building a **second** nest opposite my window, which is a joy! They keep extremely busy all day long and I look forward to young ones appearing fairly soon. (Can you see birds nesting close to your home, too?) **Swifts** are still swooping above and the **chiffchaff** is again making its presence known by its splendid call from the trees across the road, while **Mrs Blackbird** is enjoying coming into my kitchen for extra raisins, she is such a joy - but I must cut her rations down, by simply keeping the door closed tightly!

Do enjoy these lovely sunny days!