The Church worldwide must break the cycle of shame that forces persecuted Christian women to keep silent, according to a recent international conference.

‘These women are being targeted for two reasons – because they are Christians and because they are women,’ said Kate Ward, an organiser of ‘Christian Women Under Pressure for their Faith’ conference, held in Leuven, Belgium.

For example, in Nigeria, Christian girls are being abducted and impregnated by Boko Haram. In Egypt and Pakistan, Christian women are being kidnapped, raped, forced into marriage and forced to convert to Islam.

In many countries, ‘women’s bodies are being used as weapons of war against their own communities. For along with sexual attack comes shame, and shame forces women into silence,’ said Kate Ward, of Release International.

The Leuven Consultation, made up of academics and activists from 23 nations, met to address the growing problem of persecution facing Christian women. 215 million Christians experience extreme persecution in more than 50 countries worldwide. More than half of these are women, and Christian women suffer disproportionately, as they are doubly vulnerable to discrimination and violence. Yet, all too often, their voices are not heard.

Ms Sapna said Christian women in Pakistan were the most vulnerable members of their society. Under Sharia law the legal evidence of women is worth only half that of a man, and in certain cases, the evidence of a Christian is worth half that of a Muslim.

Joint conference organiser Helene Fisher from Open Doors International, said: ‘The vulnerability of Christian women is being deliberately exploited to maximise the damage to the entire Church.’

Paul Robinson, the CEO of Release International, said; ‘Let’s make sure there are protected places, safe places for the women-only voice, so that we can hear them and give them the value they deserve. Let’s break the cycle of shame. And only then can these women be fully healed and restored in Christ.’

Time to speak out on behalf of persecuted Christian women
Services

**Sundays**

11.00am Sung Eucharist

Children are welcome to spend time at the back of the church, with toys for the very young and work sheets for the slightly older.

**Weekday Services**

Said Eucharist

Wednesday 9.30am
Friday 7.30am

**Saints’ & Holy Days**

Sunday 15th October Fr. Guy’s Last Sunday

11.00am Choral Mass
6.00pm Choral Evensong and benediction followed by supper in the Vicarage

Thursday 2nd November All Souls Day

7.30pm Sung Mass
Celebrant and preacher Fr. David Houlding

Clergy Day off: Fr. Guy is off duty on Monday but don’t hesitate to call him in emergencies.

The Vicar is usually available in the Vicarage, 85 Dartmouth Park Road, from 8:00pm until 9:00pm on Tuesdays for the purpose of interviews, arranging Baptisms, reading of Banns and Weddings etc. he is also available to hear confessions then or by appointment.

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Remembering Lord Tennyson

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, the longest-serving British Poet Laureate, died 125 years ago, on 6 October 1892, at the age of 83. Perhaps best known for The Charge of the Light Brigade, he had been Poet Laureate since 1850.

Holding rather unorthodox religious views, ranging from agnosticism to pantheism, he based much of his poetry on classical myths, though one of his most famous works – much admired by Queen Victoria – was In Memoriam A H H, dedicated to his friend Arthur Hallam, after whom his son was named.

Tennyson was born in Lincolnshire, the son and grandson of vicars. He married Emily Sellwood in 1850, when he was 40. His attempts at drama were unsuccessful, but he is one of the most quoted and best loved poets in the English language. He was made a Baron in 1884, almost 20 years after initially declining the honour.
This month is the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Reformation, and so a good time to pay tribute to an outstanding English scholar, translator and martyr of the Reformation.

William Tyndale (c. 1494 - 6th October 1536) was born near Gloucester, and studied at Oxford and Cambridge. He could speak seven languages, and was proficient in ancient Hebrew and Greek. As a priest, his abilities would have taken him a long way, but by 1523 Tyndale's only desire was to translate the Bible, so that English men and women could read it for themselves. It became his life's passion.

For Tyndale had rediscovered a vital doctrine that the Church had been ignoring: that of justification by faith. He had found it when reading Erasmus's Greek edition of the New Testament. In fact, his life's work was well summed up in some words of his mentor, Erasmus: “Christ desires His mysteries to be published abroad as widely as possible. I would that [the Gospels and the epistles of Paul] were translated into all languages, of all Christian people, and that they might be read and known.”

Tyndale's translation was the first Bible to be published in English, the first to draw directly from Hebrew and Greek texts, and the first English translation to take advantage of the printing press.

It was to cost him his life. For Tyndale's work was seen as a direct challenge to the power of both the Roman Catholic Church and the laws of England in maintaining the Church's position.

When the authorities had tried to stop his translation, Tyndale fled to Hamburg, Wittenberg, Cologne, and finally to the Lutheran city of Worms. It was there, in 1525, his New Testament emerged. It was quickly smuggled into England, and King Henry VIII, Cardinal Wolsey, and others, were furious.

Tyndale moved on to Antwerp, where for nine more years he continued his work. Then in May 1535 he was betrayed, arrested, and jailed in a castle near Brussels. Tied to the stake for strangulation and burning, his dying prayer was that the King of England's eyes would be opened. Sure enough, two years later King Henry authorised the Great Bible for the Church of England, which relied largely on Tyndale's work.

Not only that, but in 1611, the 54 scholars who produced the King James Bible drew very heavily from Tyndale. Even today we honour him: in 2002, Tyndale was placed at number 26 in the BBC's poll of 100 Greatest Britons.

‘Why do the nations so furiously rage together?’ we used to sing from Psalm 2. We’ve just had a summer of international discontent, war-like words shouted across the oceans, accompanied by blood-curdling threats of fire and fury ‘such as the world has never seen’. So the question is eternally relevant: Why do nations threaten, rage and conspire? What is it in human nature that makes people who would actually prefer to live in peace act in warlike ways? The psalm, having posed the question, offers us an answer, but it is in the context of Israel 3000 years ago rather than the present world. The nations were conspiring against God's chosen nation, so watch out!

The truth is that fear of ‘the other’ usually lies behind national anger and threats. We do not trust those strange people over there, so we will conspire or rage to stop their supposed threat to us. Fear and ignorance generally lie behind international disputes, just as they often do in domestic or personal ones. Reverence for God (‘fear’ of him) is the psalmist's answer, and probably those who truly believe that ‘our times are in his hand’ will find it easier to replace fear and anger with prayer and trust.

That's not a diplomatic or political answer to a real military threat, of course. But perhaps understanding other people's fears may help us to find a solution to our own.

**Girlfriend**

When our priest and his wife visited our neighbour, her four-year-old daughter answered the door. “Mum!” she yelled toward the living room. “God’s here, and he brought his girlfriend.
A celebration of Diamond Wedding Anniversary

The children, grandchildren and great grandchildren of Bedford and Shirley Caton would like to give thanks for the marriage of and attainment of reaching their Diamond wedding anniversary.

In 1956 Bedford came to the UK from Grenada, West Indies closely followed by his fiancé at the time Shirley in 1957. A few months later the couple married on 14 September 1957 at St Mary’s Primrose Hill by Fr. Thackary. The wedding was well attended by family and friends, most of whom had also travelled to the UK from overseas.

In October 1958 their first child was born followed by a further six children over the next fifteen years, four sons and three daughters. In 1965 the family moved to Tufnell Park from Primrose Hill. All but the last two children were born and had by this time been baptised at St Mary’s primrose Hill. The following were baptised here at St Mary’s Brookfield and all of the children were confirmed at St Mary’s.

This September marks 60 years of marriage for Bedford and Shirley. It seems like only three or four years ago that they marked the anniversary of their 50th wedding anniversary with a thanks giving service at St Mary’s Brookfield. The duration of their marriage however have marked many happy memories as both husband and wife and to us as their children. Their seven children, twelve grandchildren and two great grandchildren would like to take this occasion to congratulate them both on their marriage and to thank them for their stable and consistent support and teachings as parents and grandparents.

We wish them many more happy, healthy and blessed years together as husband and wife. From Rolston, Joan, Sharon, Anthony, Horace, Pamela, Martin (Children), Fabian, Sabrina, Ezra, Georgia, Saffron, Benedick, Hannah, Meredith, Laura, Spencer, Mariama, Gabri el (Grandchildren), Aaliyah and Tyrese Riley (Great-Grandchildren).

God’s Story-teller

I can always remember the date of St Luke’s Day (18th October) because my younger son was born that day, and so we gave him ‘Luke’ as his middle name. In any case, I admit he is my favourite of the four Evangelists. I think that’s largely because, as a writer, I admire his outstanding skills, but I also warm to the glorious inclusivity of his gospel. Luke has more women in his story (many more), and they’re not just doing the cooking. He has more Gentiles, more sinners, more outcasts from society.

His picture of Jesus is emphatically universal. Matthew’s Gospel starts with Abraham, the father of Israel. Luke’s story begins with Adam, the father of the entire human race 3:18). Luke is also a master story-teller. I don’t believe there is a better story better told in the whole of world literature than his account of the so-called ‘Prodigal Son’ (Luke 16:11-17).

Some years ago, I was asked to provide a ‘reflection’ for a conference of chaplains at Young Offenders’ Institutions. I duly turned up with a prepared presentation, only to find (which no one had told me) that the chaplains weren’t all Christian. There were one Jewish and two Muslim chaplains, and my prepared piece would be inappropriate. With no time to prepare an alternative, I decided to go in at the deep end. I simply read them that story. When I finished, I invited any reactions.

A Muslim chaplain was first to speak. ‘That is a very beautiful and moving story’, he said, ‘I’ve never heard it before.’ There then followed a wonderful discussion, rooted in the biblical story, about sin and forgiveness, family complications, accepting offenders despite their past and, of course, the role of God as a ‘Father’ whose heart’s desire is that we come to Him. It was an hour I shall never forget, and I drove home thanking God, and blessed St Luke, too.

Make a date

Meeting with our new enthusiastic young curate, I asked if I could have a church service when I eventually die. “Of course,” he said, grabbing his date book. “What day do you want?”

Dreams

Realise your dream! Unless it’s the one where you’re at work in your underwear during a fire drill.
The temptation in this my last letter in Brookfield News is to reminisce about the last thirty-one years of life at St Mary’s. All the changes that have happened in the community and the church over those years. But that I think would be a great mistake, for we must as Christians always be looking forward, not backwards.

One of Jesus’ very last commands was. to “go and make disciples of all nations. Putting this at the centre of our thinking as a church must be key, focussing on what it means to be an Ambassador for Christ. Our Faith Pictures course last Lent showed us that there are many opportunities in all of our daily lives for us to play our part in sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ with those people who need to hear it. This mission is for all baptised Christians, not just for those who are deacons, priests or bishops. And we must try to ensure that as a church we all get it.

So when did you last invite someone to church to “come and see” - in doing that, we hit the missional nail on the head. Because churches that are transformational are not waiting for their neighbours to come to them; instead, they go out and meet the neighbours. They have added to the “come and see” model the “go and tell” model with a vision to change the fabric of the community around them, and a passion to do it.

A healthy missional picture is of a body of believers that celebrates not just the ministry that builds up the local church itself, but also when the surrounding community is blessed and transformed. The opposite effect happens when the vast majority of celebration is over internal ministry. One church feels like a movement into the city; the other feels like an institution seeking self-preservation. We should always want to be intentionally looking for ways to engage the community at large as our mission is “out there” and not “in here.”

Churches that are making a difference engage people in ministry within the church and mission outside the church. So we need to be strategic about engaging with the developments in our community we need to “get out there” and let them know that we are here for them and, in so doing, invite them to “come and see” for themselves.

One of the most heartening developments over the last few months has been the generous response to the Churchwardens request for help in the daily tasks of running the church. Its a great start, but if must be followed up by looking out to the community and seeking to respond to its needs and concerns. Only then will the church be truly responding to the command of Jesus to “go and make disciples of all nations”.

God is calling you to be involved. May he encourage and bless you in this task in the years to come so that St. Mary’s grows in faith and service.

So now I am going to go back on my opening comment, not so much to reminisce but to thank all of you for all the love and support that you have given to me over the years. Having got over the initial period of change, never something easy in a church community, there has been unceasing support from so many of you. Little did I think on that first Sunday that I would still be here all these years later. But I do recall looking at the congregation and thinking that I would end up burying most of them! Well I did, and if you are one of those who have survived, well done! The future will be different whoever is appointed but if you give them as much support as you have given me I am sure that they will respond with strong leadership and spiritual guidance that will enable all of you to grow in faith and love of the Lord Jesus.

May God bless you all, now and always.

Your Parish Priest

When young children pray:

“Lead a snot into temptation.”
“And forgive us our trash baskets, as we forgive those who put trash in our baskets.”
“Give us this day our jelly bread.”
“Our Father, who art in heaven, how didja know my name?”
Dear Father Guy, we are going to miss you so much. Thank you for everything you have done for us. Good luck in your future. Make sure you visit us when you can. God bless x Elizabeth.

We wish you the best for the future Father Guy. You are truly a blessing and we appreciate all you have done for the church and its members. You will really be missed. x Monica.

Hello Father Guy, we wish you the best of luck with your retirement, God bless you, thank you, so much for treating us and our grandparents so well, we will definitely stay in touch, lots of love Leo and Patrice.

Dear Father Guy, it was sad when we first heard you had decided to retire however we are pleased that you will be moving into the next phase of your life. Thank you for all you have done for us as individuals as well as our own church families over the years. We wish you well in your future and hope this is not a goodbye but see you sometime soon. God Bless. Pamela and family.

God give you good health and long life and to cover your going out and coming in, in Jesus Name. Irada.
‘Why pray when you can worry?’

Peter and John, having healed the crippled man, were ordered by the authorities ‘not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus’ (Acts 4:18). The Church immediately responded by prayer (v. 23-31). Is prayer the first thing we do when facing bullying, intimidation or rejection?

The focus of their prayer was not on the immediate situation, but the sovereignty of God. God spoke to them through Psalm 2, as David reflected on the opposition he faced: ‘Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one.’ (25,26). This illustrates the importance of the Scriptures in showing us how to pray.

Like us, the Church could have simply asked God to remove the opposition. However, they prayed for more opportunities to do what they had been doing: ‘Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus.’ (29,30). We are also called to make an impact for God in our communities. If our church closed, would the local community notice? How did God answer their prayer? ‘The place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly.’ (31). God equips us to be agents of spiritual transformation, even if this means shaking our lack of trust or complacency! Why can our walk with God feel like a crawl or our church fail to shake this world for Christ? ‘He that is a stranger to prayer is a stranger to power.’ (Billy Sunday).

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October 31st marks the 500th anniversary of Martin Luther nailing his 95 Theses to the Wittenberg church door in 1517, signaling the start of the Protestant Reformation. He was protesting against the practice of indulgences, where the good deeds of the saints could be purchased to reduce time spent in purgatory, before arriving in heaven. For Luther, this cheapened grace, repentance and forgiveness: ‘You can’t buy God’s friendship!’

Luther rediscovered the truths of God’s grace: ‘For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed – a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, just as it is written: ‘The righteous will live by faith.’ (Romans 1:17). He recognised that righteousness (being right with God) and forgiveness is not earned by good works, but faith. The undeserved love of God and His acceptance is a matter of trust. This challenge to the Church of

Luther’s day remains so today! At the Diet (Council) of Worms, he refused to recant his views: ‘Here I stand; I can do no other!’

Luther stood for the free forgiveness of the gospel, by which God accepts us because of the death of Jesus on our behalf to deal with our sin. Is this what we believe? Only trusting Jesus can make us right with God. In what ways can we slip into a mindset that seeks God’s approval for what we achieve in our spiritual lives, rather than in how we can serve as a response to all He has done for us? We will continue to get things wrong, but God never gives up on us!

‘Be a sinner, and let your sins be strong (sin boldly), but let your trust in Christ be stronger, and rejoice in Christ who is the victor over sin, death, and the world.’ (Martin Luther).

Several bishops in the Church of England are thinking about gambling machines this month. That is because this autumn the long-awaited review of how the Government should best regulate gambling machines is due out.

It was in October 2016 that the Government agreed to review how fixed-odds betting terminals (FOBTs) operated. It came amid growing concern that the machine – that allows gamblers to place bets of up to £100 every 20 seconds – was ruining the lives of gambling addicts, and had even led to suicides.

The Bishop of St Albans, Dr Alan Smith, said: ‘I’m convinced that this form of betting urgently needs regulating. Clergy and congregations are providing frontline support for a great many vulnerable people who are at risk of gambling-related harm, and whose lives are blighted by the prevalence of FOBTs on our high streets.’

Continued concern over gambling machines

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**Homelessness: a growing problem**

Homelessness could rise by more than a quarter over the next ten years. The number of rough-sleepers could rise by 76 per cent, from 9,100 to 16,000.

Those are the conclusions of a recent study Homelessness Projections: Core homelessness in Great Britain, produced for the charity Crisis. The report also warns that at any one time across Britain in 2016, 160,000 households were experiencing ‘core homelessness’, from ‘sofa-surfing’ (over 68,000), to staying in hostels, shelter and refuges (over 42,000) to being placed in unsuitable temporary accommodation (over 19,000) to rough sleeping, staying in a car or tent, or squatting (unknown). Overall, the scale of core homelessness had increased by 33 per cent since 2011.

Now the Homelessness Reduction Bill, passed this year, will require local authorities in England to do more to prevent homelessness. Certainly, the Government is investing £550 million in tackling homelessness by 2020. Meanwhile, the Crisis report predicts that, if welfare cuts were cancelled, homelessness could be reduced by 33 per cent by 2036.

The executive director of the Church Urban Fund, Paul Hackwood, highlighted the work of churches in responding to homelessness, including the Together programme, which provides night shelters and emergency provision.

**The BBC turns its attention to rural vicars**

In a new six-part religion series, BBC Two is following the lives of country vicars at the heart of their rural communities in Herefordshire. ‘A Vicar’s Life’ will show how, from opening fêtes to marrying local couples, vicars are knitted into the fabric of country life. They act as a pillar of support in times of crisis and personal sorrow.

The series will span a six-month period, from Whitsun to Christmas, and explore how the vicar’s message of Christianity fits into an ever-changing 21st century. The series will also give a closer perspective on rural life, as seen through the eyes of the church. Village fetes, shooting drives, and local issues - all served up with a heavy dose of humour, charity, and inspiring local leadership.

‘A Vicar’s Life’ was made by BBC Studios’ Pacific Quay Productions for BBC Two. The Executive Producer is Jo Roe.

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We know a good doctor when we meet one! He or she will ask lots of questions and carefully observe how we are feeling. They will look and listen; administer tests and accurately recorded their findings.

Unlike the Gospel writers Matthew, Mark and John, Luke was not a disciple of Jesus. He was trained as a doctor, probably a Gentile and certainly an educated Greek. As Luke didn't know Jesus personally, he needed his interview skills as a physician to speak with people who knew Jesus. He listened to their stories and identified the truth from hearsay.

Luke's Gospel has a very human touch to it and begins with two detailed descriptions of the births of two important babies! He often writes about our Lord's encounters with individuals; men, women, children, the poor and the rich, the sick and the strong. He showed Christ's sympathy for people who were underprivileged, hurting and weak. Luke was a keen observer and wrote both as a careful historian and with the heart of a loving physician.

If we didn't have Luke's Gospel we would lack so much. For example, we wouldn't know about: the angels' and shepherds' visit at the birth of Jesus; the visit by the boy Jesus to the temple; the parables of the Good Samaritan and the Prodigal Son; the encounters of Jesus with Zacchaeus, and the two men on their walk to Emmaus.

Luke's tenderness is revealed with his emphasis on prayer, the Holy Spirit, the role of women in the ministry of Jesus and God's forgiveness of sins. He describes Jesus' compassion for the widow of Nain and our Lord's mercy to the dying thief on the cross.

Luke also wrote the Book of Acts. This is another trusted record about the beginnings of the early Church. Luke was a companion of Paul and was with him on many journeys. Without the Book of Acts, we would know very little about Paul's life and other followers of Christ including Barnabas, Silas and Timothy. Luke was a man not writing about distant historical figures or dramas, but about people he knew first-hand.

Luke wrote his Gospel so that there would be an accurate and an orderly account of the life, ministry and message of Jesus. He carefully researched his material and spoke to eye-witnesses. He listened to those who had been with Jesus and worked alongside leaders and workers of the fledgling church.

A physician identifies our need and helps us to get well. Luke saw our need to have Jesus as our heavenly Physician. Our eternal life and salvation can only be found through faith in Him.

Tips to cope with stress

October brings ever-shortening days, and often ever busier days at work. Here's some tips to help you deal with stress.

Breathe yourself calm: Take a long, slow breath in for five counts and out for five, and repeat for a few breaths until you feel relaxed.

Set small goals: If you feel overwhelmed by a large project, break it down into tiny, achievable goals. Each time you achieve a little goal, you will feel you have succeeded at something, and your brain will respond by releasing the neurotransmitter dopamine, which will make you feel more positive.

Invigorate your brain: Go for a brisk ten-minute walk – it will help you feel less jaded, bored, anxious or stressed.

Do not multi-task: Your brain can handle only so much information at any one time. Your 'attention' is therefore a limited resource, and you need to protect it to get the best from your brain. So, when you settle down to work, switch off alerts for your phone and emails – concentrate on one thing at a time.

Sit up, stand up: Don't slump. Don't stoop as you walk. Good posture keeps you alert.

Squeeze your own hand: When you have a difficult phonecall or presentation to make, squeeze your right hand for 45 seconds. This is said to increases the firing of brain cells on the left side of your brain, giving your brain's 'challenge' system a tiny boost.

Meditate between tasks Stop and do a five-minute work break meditation. Choose a verse from the Bible to settle your thoughts such as Psalm 46:10: 'Be still and know that I am God'. Or Psalm 94:19: 'In the multitude of my thoughts within me, your comforts delight my soul.' Thank God for His love for you. Send up a short prayer for yourself, and your colleagues!
The story of the Passion we find in the Gospels is full of drama and colour: a vivid journey from Palm Sunday to Easter Day. We focus on the kingship of Jesus that is proclaimed, denied and ultimately vindicated in the Resurrection victory. In that Passion story St Peter has an important role. He is there at the Last Supper and in Gethsemane, brave and generous with his words. But he falls asleep and later flees from the scene, leaving Jesus to drink His cup of sorrow alone.

After his arrest, Jesus is taken to Annas and Caiaphas, the high priest. In the courtyard outside Peter denies his Lord three times. It is depicted in this painting by Duccio, an Italian artist who worked in Siena. The panel shows a stairway linking two scenes: Jesus before the Jewish authorities, and Peter below, warming his feet by the fire. We feel that Peter could climb the steps to be with Jesus, but he raises a hand of denial to the servant girl's query. In the next panel we see the cockerel: a reminder of his lack of courage. Peter learns something about his own character and faith, and as we read, we find that resonating in our own lives.

This panel is part of a much larger work: an altarpiece commissioned by the cathedral in 1308. Known as the Maestà, it was brought into the cathedral in June 1311 amid countless candles and the ringing of bells. Years later the panels were sold off and now can be found in museums around the world. In this panel we see Peter when the solid rock of his life turned out to be shifting sand. But whatever his failure, Jesus lifts him up again. The charcoal fire of betrayal and denial here will become the charcoal fire by the sea when the risen Lord cooks breakfast and greets Peter in the dawn of a new day that brings acceptance and hope.

The prescription you can't get at the chemist

As you get older, you should be given a dog on prescription. That is the unlikely finding of a recent study at Cambridge University and the University of East Anglia.

The researchers found that owning or walking a dog was one of the most effective ways to beat the usual slowing-down in later life. It seems that elderly people who own a dog are active for at least 30 minutes a day more than their counterparts with no dog.

And when it rains or is cold outside? No problem – for the study also found that older people with dogs were far less impacted by weather, and that they went ahead with walking – rain or shine, wet or dry. Overall, their physical activity even on miserable days was 20 per cent higher than those without pets.

The researchers confess: ‘We were amazed to find that even on the coldest, wettest and darkest days, dog walkers were more physically active and spent less time sitting than did the non-dog owners on the long, sunny and warm days of summer.’

Thus, the team has suggested that dog ownership or community schemes for dog walking could be prescribed to older people by their GPs.

When looking for a new priest, it may be helpful to bear the following in mind:

The Perfect priest preaches exactly 10 minutes. He condemns sin roundly, but never hurts anyone's feelings. He works from 8 a.m. until midnight, and is also the church handyman.

The Perfect priest lives on a very small salary, wears good clothes, drives a good car, buys good books, and donates £30 a week to the church. He is 29 years old and has 40 years' worth of experience. Above all, he is handsome.

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1st October Trinity 16 Harvest Festival
Readings  Deuteronomy 8: 7-18
Psalm  65
  2 Corinthians 9: 6-15
  Luke 17: 11-19
Hymns  259 Come ye thankful people come
  264 All things bright
  262 We plough the fields and scatter
  262 Lord of beauty
Sidesperson: Irada Fracassi
Readers: Lucy Boyd, Joe McKenzie
Intercessions: Nicky Pittam

8th October Trinity 17 proper 22
Readings  Isaiah 5: 1-7
Psalm  80
  Philippians 3: 4b-14
  Matthew 21: 33-end
Hymns  306 God of mercy God of grace
  94 We sing the praise
  375 Lord of the dance
  439 Praise to the holiest
Sidesperson: Bill Saunders
Readers: Rob Nesbitt, Jenny Kauntze
Intercessions: Carol Kenning

15th October Trinity 18 proper 23
Readings  Isaiah 25: 1-9
Psalm  23
  Philippians 4:1-9
  Matthew 22:1-14
Hymns  467 Through all the changing scenes
  443 Rejoice the Lord is king
  296 Lord enthroned in heavenly
  Lord for the years
Sidesperson: Nick Bethune
Readers: Denise Sealy, Mark Williams
Intercessions: Ian MacGregor

22nd October Trinity 19 proper 24
Readings  Isaiah 45: 1-7
Psalm  96
  1 Thessalonians 1: 1-10
  Matthew 22: 15-22
Hymns  388 Jesus shall reign
  360 Firmly I believe and truly
  352 Crown him with many crowns
  477 Ye that know the Lord is gracious
Sidesperson: Mark Williams
Readers: Carol Kenning, Nick Bethune
Intercessions: Bill Saunders

29th October Last Sunday after Trinity proper 25
Readings  Leviticus 19: 1-2 & 15-18
Psalm  1
  1 Thessalonians 2: 1-8
  Matthew 22: 34-end
Hymns  360 Firmly I believe and truly
  357 Father hear the prayer
  320 O perfect love
  372 He who would valiant be
Sidesperson: Rob Nesbitt
Readers: Oliver Butt, Ruth Godwin
Intercessions: Lucy Boyd

The Perfect priest has a burning desire to work with teenagers, and he spends most of his time with the senior citizens. He smiles all the time with a straight face because he has a sense of humour that keeps him seriously dedicated to his church. He makes 15 home visits a day and is always in his office to be handy when needed.

The Perfect priest always has time for church meetings and all of its committees, never missing the meeting of any church organisation. And he is always busy evangelising the unchurched. He also spends hours preparing couples for their weddings, hours preparing parents for their baby's baptism, and hours visiting the bereaved. But his life is dedicated to solitude, prayer and meditation.

The Perfect priest is always in the next town over! So if you think that our priest does not measure up, it has been suggested that we simply send this notice to six other churches that are tired of their priest The idea is that we bundle up our priest and send him to the church at the top of our list. If everyone cooperates, in one week we will receive 1, 643 new priests. One of them should be perfect. Have faith in this plan. One church broke the chain and got its old priest back in less than three months.
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For your prayers

PRAYER CALENDAR FOR MONTH OF OCTOBER 2017

8th Trinity 17
10th St Paulinus
11th St Ethelburger
12th St Wilfred of Ripon
13th St Edward the Confessor
15th Trinity 18
17th St Ignatius
18th St Luke
22nd Trinity 19
25th St Crispin & St Crispinian
26th St Alfred the Great
29th Last Sunday after Trinity

SAINTS & HOLY DAYS

1st Trinity 16 Harvest Festival
4th St Francis of Assisi
6th William Tyndale

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