



Warm Welcome

Matthew 10:29-31

Are not two sparrows sold for a penny? Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father's care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.



SUMMER
ISSUE

2019

Editor's Foreword



The reason birds
can fly and we
can't is simply
because they
have perfect
faith, for to have
faith is to have
wings.

J. M. Barrie



Hope you enjoy the Summer edition of the
Warm Welcome.

Many thanks to all those who contribute to it -
please keep items coming!



Ed.

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From Rev. Catherine Wagstaff -

As a good Methodist I went to a Church of England school! Life was punctuated by special services in the Christian and the school calendar. Ascension Day was always a big event, the choir had to prepare lots of special music, and the vicar of the local church was invited in to lead a service including, of course, a sermon. To be honest I made very little of it, especially in my early years. There was a very good point in that there were no lessons for the rest of the day(!) but with the good came the bad and I must confess that I, along with my friends, did find it a little bit boring!

As I got older it seemed to take on a bit more significance for me but really I could only see it as a poor relation to Easter. Easter surely held far greater significance - Ascension seemed to offer very little really to get excited about.

Ascension Day falls 40 days after Easter and as I write, we have just celebrated it. It is the day, as the name suggests, when we remember that Christ was taken up into heaven in full view of the disciples, after telling them that he would send the Holy Spirit and that they were to become his witnesses to all the world. But it's not just a small 'side show' that happened between Easter and Pentecost, as I used to think – only worthy of note in order that I could have a day off my lessons!

For the Ascension signifies two major truths that Christians can celebrate every day of their lives. Firstly, the disciples saw their risen Lord ascending in majesty - their Lord and Saviour was King over death and Lord over *all*. 'Jesus is Lord' became their early creed... their Lord, our Lord is Lord over all, seated at the right hand of God praying for us, he is King of all Kings, Lord of all Lords! Secondly, when Jesus was on earth his birth, ministry, death and resurrection all happened within the confines of time and place.

The events of the Gospels inevitably happened at a particular moment of time amongst a restricted number of people. At his Ascension however Jesus was forever released from the bondage of time and place and from this point on and particularly after the outpouring of the Holy Spirit it could be claimed that Christ is everywhere not limited by geography or history but Christ for *all*, in all places at all times forever; our Lord Jesus Christ is Lord of all, for all eternity.

cont...

Give me wings, let me fly Believe in me, let me touch the sky. —Unknown
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cont. from previous page -

If you look at the story that St Luke gives us in Acts 1:1-11, one of my favourite quotes is to be found there... for Luke tells us that, after the disciples had seen Jesus go up into heaven, an angel asked the disciples, 'Why do you stand here looking at the sky?' Well, I guess that should've been obvious – the disciples are looking upwards because that's the direction that Jesus has gone in!!! But reading between the lines what I think the angel may be saying is, 'Don't hang around here. Get on with it! Go and serve your Lord and King, go and be the witnesses he has called you to be.' It's no good looking up into the sky, that's not going to get you very far is it?! Get going just as Jesus says. Be filled with the Holy Spirit, with power from on high, and go out into your communities and into the world and tell, live, the Good News. And of course that's exactly what the disciples did...

That same Holy Spirit fills us today and calls us to do the same. Don't hang around here! Jesus is Lord over all, with us for all time and in all places and he is calling us to share the best news the world can ever hear and know - that God loves us to the uttermost. That's got to be even better than a day without school lessons...!



What matters

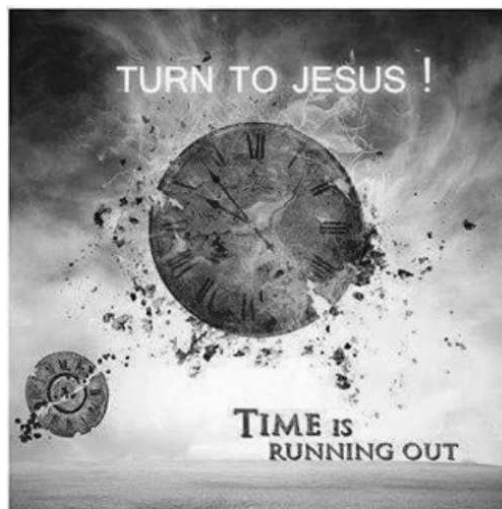
What matters in life is your attitude to Jesus Christ.
You can have an assurance of going to heaven, if you believe
in Jesus.

The Bible tells us about Him and praying to Him will help you
find out more.

When I was younger, I used to think that I could turn to Jesus
at the end of my life, but none of us know when that is.

Now is the only time we are certain of, so turn to him today.

by Martin Charlesworth



<p>Faith is the bird that feels the light when the dawn is still dark. <i>Rabindranath Tagore</i></p>
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Christian Humour



A minister told his congregation, "Next week, I plan to preach a 'special' sermon. To help you understand my sermon, I want you to read Mark 17." The following Sunday, as he prepared to deliver his sermon, the minister asked for a show of hands. He wanted to know how many had read Mark 17. Nearly every hand went up.

The minister smiled and said, "Mark has only sixteen chapters, I will now proceed with my sermon on honesty!"

A minister is driving down the road and is stopped for speeding. The traffic policeman smells alcohol on his breath, sees an empty wine bottle on the floor, and asks, "Sir, have you been drinking?" The minister replies, "Just water." The officer asks, "Then why do I smell wine?" The minister looks down at the bottle and exclaims, "Good Lord, He's done it again!"



A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter. So he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. FORGIVE US OUR TRESPASSES." When he returned, he found a citation from a traffic warden along with this note: "I've circled this block for 10 years. If I don't give you a ticket, I'll lose my job. LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION."

A minister delivered a sermon in 10 minutes one Sunday morning, which was about half the usual length of his sermons. He explained, "I regret to inform you that my dog, who is very fond of eating paper, ate that portion of my sermon which I was unable to deliver this morning." After the service, a visitor from another church shook hands with the preacher and said, "Reverend, if that dog of yours has any pups, I want to give one to my minister."



A note received to go in the Warm Welcome --

I just want to say how very much I appreciate the PowerPoint pictures and words. A lot of hard work must go into preparing this, so thank-you to all who are involved. I find them to be a great help in worship.



Thank you again.

Jennie Ashton

Another item from Jennie -

WEERAPAT

Weerapat is a 6 year old little boy in Thailand who we, as a church, sponsor. His sponsorship helps to send him to school, clothe and feed him. He lives with his grandparents and has a brother who is very often unwell.

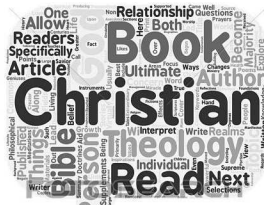
Please pray for Weerapat and his family. Sponsorship costs £25 a month, so please donate regularly. There is a box for this at the back of the church, with a photo of Weerapat.

Thank you - Jennie



"It is not only fine feathers that make fine birds." Aesop

You can give them to Harry, Susan or Naomi if you aren't able to come in during the week.



12th September - The Puzzle of Jesus - how was Jesus both human and divine?
10th October - The Doctrine of the Trinity - does it make any sense?
14th November - The Mind/Body Problem - if we have a soul, what is its connection with the body?
12th December - Life after Death - is death the end of human existence, or is there more for humans in a place beyond the grave?

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PRAYER

by Margaret Charlesworth

God knows!
A throwaway line to avoid further questions;
Throwing up our hands when we don't know the answers-
Or don't want to know -
God knows!
And yet it's true, a statement of fact.
God does know:
He knows the end from the beginning
And the plans He has for us;
He knows our needs and our situations;
Thoughts and feelings buried in the hidden recesses of our hearts
That we don't fully understand ourselves.
God knows!

Prayer



God hears:
The words we speak -
And the words we hold back;
What we say and what we mean;
Songs of praise and puzzled questions;
Even groans we can't express in words
God hears.

God speaks:
In sound and in silence;
In snatches of song and lines of Scripture;
Through friend and even stranger;
In wide open spaces, crowded cities, special places;
In the secret stirrings of our hearts
God speaks.

God acts:
In creation, in history
In the here and now.
God acts to save, to heal, restore,
To guide, provide, enable to endure.
Through people, through events,
In response to faith, in answer to prayer,
Because He cares
God acts.

So come to Him,
The God who knows, who hears,
Who speaks and who acts.
Ask Him for guidance and understanding,
Tell Him your feelings, your needs, your joys.
Listen for His still, small voice.
Wait to see how He responds
And get to know Him better
As you spend time alone with Him



12 Odd Facts About Birds

1. Ravens are great at mimicking human speech and sounds.
2. Ostriches have the largest eyes of any land animal.
3. Cardinals like to cover themselves in ants.
4. Owls devour their prey whole.
5. Some ducks sleep with one eye open.
6. Kiwis are sometimes called "honorary mammals."
7. Most hummingbirds weigh less than a 20 p coin.
8. In ancient Greece, pigeons delivered the results of the Olympic games.
9. Bassian thrushes find food by farting.
10. Woodpeckers hoard acorns.
11. Hoatzin chicks are born with claws on their wings.
12. Budgies catch each other's yawns.

There are nearly 300 verses in the Bible that mention birds. More than one hundred of these merely use the word "fowl" or "bird," leaving the reader to guess at the species. It is interesting to note that the Old Testament writers knew more about birds, and apparently were more interested in birds than were the New Testament writers.

How Many Birds in the Bible

There are at least 33 different birds mentioned in the Bible - How many can you name?

Answers on page 16

BIRD QUIZ

1. What bird has the largest wingspan?
Ruppell's Vulture, Golden Eagle, Wandering Albatross, Ostrich
2. How many known species of birds are there?
5,000, 10,000, 20,000, 40,000
3. What colour are the American robin's eggs?
Green, White, Pink, Blue
4. What bird has such a long tail that, when taking flight from a branch, it must launch itself backwards in order to avoid ripping the tail to shreds?
Quetzal, Cuckoo, Secretary bird, Palm cockatoo
5. What is a group of owls called?
Watch, Brood, Colony, Parliament
6. What bird has the longest life span?
Ostrich, Swan, Parrot, Cockatoo
7. What bird inflates a bright red balloon on its neck to attract a mate?
Sulphur crested cockatoo, Magnificent frigate bird, Greater bird of paradise, Eastern meadowlark
8. As of 2016, what was the most commonly sighted bird in the UK?
Blackbird, House sparrow, Wood pigeon, Starling
9. The yellow-bellied sapsucker is a type of ...?
Vulture, Woodpecker, Owl, Hummingbird
10. One ostrich egg is equivalent to the weight of how many chicken eggs?
3, 6, 12, 24



Answers on page 16

"A bird does not sing because it has an answer. It sings because it has a song." Chinese Proverb

Feathered Friends Word Search Puzzle

Can you find all the bird names hidden in the puzzle?

N H L R L O L M G N I B O R W R O F
 C Y I V O N X N E O U M E L H U H L
 P A R R O T C W P A L T V V N R E A
 P T S Z P B V H K O D D U S I C K M
 Y W E C N F G D D Z R O F R W R K I
 G P S E D H L W F L N I W I K G Z N
 U I Z H K E N A R C O T O L N E I G
 C B D X F A W N O R E H A L A C Y O
 M G L H U J R L O E G S G A E R H L
 F J U U U K A A Y Z I L W S W E K H
 X I I N E P I W P D P X D G K A T U
 K I C V O J C A R D I N A L T G E M
 G O O S E D A C V W N C S Y M L B M
 R X V O R L R Y O E X H A W K E E I
 K T D L V O S H V N V O K C R E E N
 T E V L W Q L A O S S C A W A R X G
 E A I U D U R C V X U R C S C U R B
 E O A G U Q L S D D G V Q G B T H I
 X K I A D A B O H C I R T S O L N R
 K D H E F U S T A R L I N G B U L D
 P B D S T Z B M O B I J M H H V Y D

BLUEJAY
 BUDGIE
 CARDINAL
 CRANE
 CROW
 DUCK
 EAGLE
 EMU
 FALCON
 FLAMINGO
 GOLDFINCH
 GOOSE
 GRACKLE
 HAWK
 HERON
 HUMMINGBIRD
 JUNCO
 MEADOWLARK
 ORIOLE
 OSTRICH
 PARAKEET
 PARROT
 PIGEON
 RAVEN
 ROBIN
 SEAGULL
 STARLING
 TURKEY
 VULTURE



Colours in Nature *by Nola Gendle*

Some rosy red
and gem-like blue,
the kingfisher
is flashing through
high reeds, along
the river bed.

A field of rape
intensely yellow,
The hum of bees
buzz as one fellow,
legs full and round,
a pollen cape.

A hundred greens
and bells of white,
the leaves of trees
and snowdrops flight,
slips from our world
to shape our dreams.

Cream speckled breast
a song so clear,
the mother thrush
stays still, to rear
her clutch of eggs
warm in her nest.

The stream sings on,
colour changing ever
from grey to brown;
camouflage so clever
for tiny silver fish,
seen, then quickly gone.



Poetry is like a bird, it ignores all frontiers. *Yevgeny Yevtushenko*

GOING, GOING, GONE!

One day a man went to an auction. While there, he bid on an exotic parrot. He really wanted this bird, so he got caught up in the bidding. He kept on bidding, but kept getting outbid, so he bid higher and higher and higher. Finally, after he bid way more than he intended, he won the bid - the fine bird was finally his! As he was paying for the parrot, he said to the Auctioneer, "I sure hope this parrot can talk. I would hate to have paid this much for it, only to find out that he can't talk!" "Don't worry", said the Auctioneer, "He can talk. Who do you think kept bidding against you?"



The Magpie

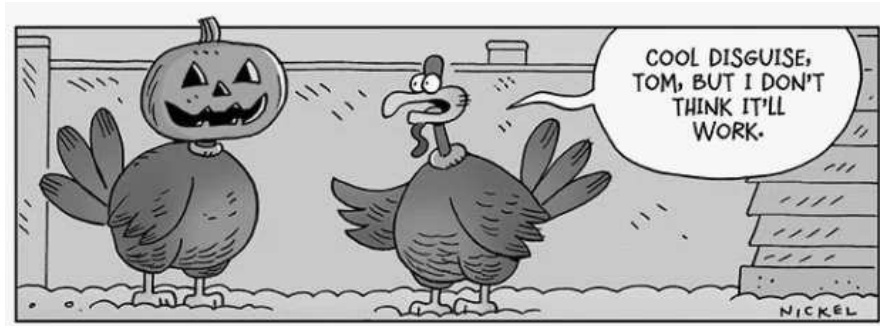
A magpie applied for the receptionist job at a large commercial office. The interviewer, a bit non-plussed, told the magpie that the candidate had to be able to type at least 80 words per minute. The magpie demonstrated a 100 wpm talent!



Not wanting to hire a bird for the job, the interviewer told the magpie that the candidate had to be able to take dictation. The magpie surpassed all other candidates. Finally, the interviewer thought he'd be able to get rid of the magpie with "the candidate must be bilingual!" The magpie replied "Meow!"

George was taking care of a parrot for his aunt. This parrot was a very nasty parrot. It cussed and screamed and made fun of George, so he took the parrot and put it in the freezer. The parrot kept screaming and insulting George until finally it stopped. George thought to himself, "On no! I froze my aunt's bird to death." He opened the door and saw the bird alive! The bird said, "I'm sorry for my behaviour and will never act up again. George said, "Why the change?" The bird answered, "Because I saw what you did to the chicken!"





Birds teach us something very important: To whatever height you rise, you will finally come down to the ground! Mehmet Murat ildan

Answers to Quizzes

Bittern, Buzzards, Cranes, Cormorant, Cuckoo,
Dove and Turtle-Dove, Eagles, Falcons, Glade and
Kite, Hawks, Hen and Rooster, Herons, Hoopoe,
Ibises, Lapwing, Nighthawks, Osprey, Ossifrage,
Ostrich, Owls, Partridge, Peacocks, Pelicans, Pi-
geon, Quail, Raven, Sparrows, Storks, Swallows,
Swan, Swift, Thrushes, Vultures

Answers to Bird Quiz
1) Wandering Albatross
2) 10000
3) Blue
4) Quetzal
5) Parliament
6) Parrot
7) Magnificent Frigate Bird
8) Sparrow
9) Woodpecker
10) 24

Birds in the Bible

A duck walks into a drug store and buys a lipsalve. The clerk says, "Will that be cash or charge?" The duck says, "Just put it on my bill!"

I understand that a crow has one less pinion feather than a raven. Therefore how do you tell a crow from a raven? It's a matter of opinion.

Two turkey buzzards were preparing to migrate north for the summer but, after talking about it, they decided they were too old to fly all that way, so they decided to take a plane. When they were about to board the aircraft, the flight attendant, noticing that both buzzards were carrying a dead armadillo, asked, "Would you like to check those armadillos through as luggage?" "No thanks," the buzzards replied, "they're carrion."



The early bird gets the worm. Proverb

St. Francis Prayer to Birds - "Little Sisters"



The patron saint of animals, St. Francis of Assisi, built bonds of love with all of kinds of creatures in the animal kingdom.

But Saint Francis had a special relationship with birds, who often followed him around and rested on his shoulders, arms, or hands as he prayed or walked around outside.

One day, as Francis and some companions were travelling through the Spoleto Valley in Italy, Francis noticed that a huge flock of birds had gathered in some trees beside a field, and he walked over to preach a sermon about God's love to them.

Francis told the birds:

"My sweet little sisters, birds of the sky, you are bound to heaven, to God, your Creator. In every beat of your wings and every note of your songs, praise Him.

He has given you the greatest of gifts, the freedom of the air. You neither sow, nor reap, yet God provides for you the most delicious food, rivers and lakes to quench your thirst, mountains and valleys for your home, tall trees to build your nests, and the most beautiful clothing: a change of feathers with every season.

You and your kind were preserved in Noah's Ark. Clearly, our Creator loves you dearly, since He gives you gifts so abundantly.

So please beware, my little sisters, of the sin of ingratitude, and always sing praise to God."

The people who witnessed Francis' sermon to the birds reported that the birds listened intently to everything Francis had to say and remained attentively gathered around Francis until he blessed them and they flew away.

You cannot prevent the birds of sorrow from flying over your head, but you can prevent them from building nests in your hair. Chinese Proverb



This is a page to bring Birthday Greetings to everyone in the Church. Each edition I'll be putting in the names of members of the church who have a birthday in that quarter. **I'd be grateful if people could let me know their names and the month they are celebrating their birthdays in.**

For instance - The Spring edition greetings will be March, April and May. and the Summer edition the months of June, July and August. In the Autumn edition it will be the months of September, October and November and the Winter edition will be the months of December, January and February. Hopefully I will be able to include more names as we go along. Please tell me if it is a very special occasion.

JUNE - Vincent Canning, Emma & Ann Gittoes, Irene Convey, Allan Pyne, Roger Reynolds, Rita Wostrak

JULY - Valerie Carne, Margaret Charlesworth, Roger Course, Eddie Twigg

AUGUST - Martin Charlesworth, Mike Dorrington, Susan Moore, Sheila Tindal

Many congratulations to all who are having a birthday or special event in these months.



It's Time to get your Diaries out for Future Events.



JULY – 13th July - Action for Children Coffee Morning & Box Opening in the vestibule to precede Action for Children Sunday on the 14th July. Celebrating 150 years of Action for Children in partnership with the Methodist Church.

27th July Church Coffee Morning in the vestibule 10 - 12 pm



Short Mat Bowls

Following the very successful coffee morning on Saturday June 1st, we have now raised enough to purchase a new Short Mat Bowls carpet. I'd like to congratulate everyone who has helped to raise the sum of £786, which is the cost of the carpet.

My special thanks goes to Mary Doughty for her very generous donation. It was also very pleasing to see so many of our own church family at the coffee morning, who made up most of the people who came.

The carpet has been ordered and should take about three weeks to arrive and we will no doubt have a special celebratory evening to exchange the new for the old - all will be welcome to come and have a go! *Harry Moore*

Use what talents you possess: the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best. ~Henry van Dyke

Our Weekly Church Programme

Sunday	10.30 am	Divine Worship and Junior Church
	5.30 pm	5.30 Fellowship in the Hall
Monday.....	10.00 am	Handbells
	2.30 pm	Friends Together (Monthly)
	5.00 pm	Short Mat Bowls
Tuesday.....	10.30 am	Mixed Blessings House Group (Monthly)
Wed.....	12.00 - 2.00 pm	Wednesday Lunches in the Hall
Thursday.....	7.30 pm	Table Tennis
Friday	11.00 am	Pause for Thought/Prayer Meeting
	2.00 pm	Choir Practice



Watch out for special *Coffee Mornings* - see Sunday notices.

And finally -

Deep within a forest a little turtle began to climb a tree. After hours of effort he reached the top, jumped into the air waving his front legs and crashed to the ground. After recovering, he slowly climbed the tree again, jumped, and fell to the ground.

The turtle tried again and again while a couple of birds sitting on a branch watched his sad efforts. Finally, the female bird turned to her mate.

“Dear,” she chirped, “I think it's time to tell him he's adopted.”

