

In the Beginning...

Along with many people, I was fascinated by the recent television series "Wolf Hall", based on two books by author Hilary Mantel.

It told the story of Henry VIII from the perspective of Thomas Cromwell, the low-born functionary at the King's court. He rose to great power by virtue of his intelligence, cunning, and his ability to give the King what he wanted. Generally not presented as a very likable character, Mantel's creation of Cromwell, and his brilliant portrayal by actor John Rylance in this series, gave the viewer a unique perspective on the events of a turbulent, historic time.

Almost everyone agrees that it was excellent TV. The sets, costumes, production values and performances were all of very high quality. However, it was not without its critics. Mantel has been attacked by historians for her work. One of the risks that an author takes by presenting a story through a single character's eyes is that of limiting or skewing the narrative. Also, to be fair, compressing two books into a single TV series must inevitably involve the loss of a certain amount of depth, and a focussing only on the essentials and the highlights. Nevertheless, it was great entertainment.

Perhaps because of the constraints I just mentioned, it is interesting to note that the great disruption to the Church during this period forms a constant backdrop, but is never actually depicted. We don't see the massive meltdown of worship, education, health care, and poor relief that most people actually experienced. The focus is rather upon the key players and events at the King's court through Cromwell's eyes.

In our lives we can be so concerned by what



directly affects us that we miss what is actually going on. We are under the tyranny of the urgent in our lives, constantly unable to reflect upon what's important. The great players in our own personal dramas come and go, we watch them and interact with them, but the important things are really happening somewhere else.

The great event of our salvation through Christ's suffering and death on the Cross may not be the centre-point it should be in most of our lives, but it is the great offstage event of our limited perspective. Lent and Passiontide recall us to the awareness that God is at His constant, costly, saving work, whether we know it and care, or not.

With every blessing, *Fr. Clive*



YES, WE DO STILL COLLECT USED POSTAGE STAMPS.....

For a number of years members of the congregation and friends have carefully snipped off their stamps from snail mail letters, cards, parcels and packets.

To what ends.....this is the first stage of raising money for the Leprosy Mission. Here we trim the backing paper neatly, leaving a generous margin of paper in order to protect the stamp itself, then sort into UK and Foreign. After that the UK ones are separated into 'special issues' and 'definitives'. The variety amongst the 'specials' is huge celebrating everything from royal events, national events, famous buildings, sailing ships to Alice in Wonderland, one of the most recent issues. Amongst the definitives it was thrilling to find a few with the head of a young George VI and a number with a young but regal Elizabeth. Even older was a solitary Edward VII

The foreign stamps come from a vast number of countries and most continents. To list the first few that come to mind: Austria, France, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Latvia, Poland, Hungary, Norway, Sweden representing Europe. From Africa, Nigeria, Swaziland, Egypt, Morocco, South Africa. India, Pakistan from the Sub-Continent. Few from the Americas, Canada, United States, None I remember from Central or South America. Various 'holiday islands' such as Bermuda and the Bahamas, and from the Antipodes, New Zealand and Australia though nothing from Tasmania, alas.

Leprosy Mission, perhaps Judy Robinson, can take the sorted bundles through to Stirling for the next stage of processing. Ultimately the beautifully prepared stamps will go to London and the process of marketing proceeds.

Money raised goes totally to the Leprosy Mission who ensure it is used to maximum effect to provide the medicines needed for the treatment of that sadly still-to-be-foundon-several-continents scourge of LEP-ROSY. We all know it is treatable, the problems are to provide professionals to administer the costly drugs and to provide the essential transport often over difficult terrain.

I must confess it is great fun sorting through the miscellaneous collections of stamps and dream of the faraway places from whence many have travelled. Interesting little side lines being the variety of subjects for the designs and what facet of a society they represent......the quality of the printing of most of the natural history ones is superb.....the types and quality of the fragments of backing paper and so much else, imagination is given free rein. Please let your enthusiasm for saving stamps to give to the Leprosy Mission be renewed, it is harder than ever now that email is taking over from good old snail mail (though I personally would not be without email for all the proverbial tea in China!) but even half a dozen stamps are worth saving.

Perhaps somewhere in an old desk you might even find some lurking envelopes bearing stamps......who knows, treasure might be unearthed.....?

A big thank you to all the faithful stampsavers and a word of encouragement to new ones.....leprosy sufferers all over the globe echo this thanks.

Ann N

The next stage is when someone from the

Cleansing the Temple

Lord, you reveal your righteous wrath at our profanity, the way we cheapen holy things and our humanity.

Come, overturn the tables where your grace is bought and sold and liberate the victim-sheep who've wandered from your fold.

Come, cast away the currency of our religious pride and break apart the cages of the souls for which you died.

Condemn our false religion, Lord, the trivial, easy way. Come, knock us down and raise us up to bear the cross each day.

And when we stand before you, Lord, adorned by wounds of love, give those whom you've chastised and cleansed a place with you above.

Clive Clapson, 2015

The Rector has his bus pass! Good things about reaching the age of sixty:

No one expects you to run -- anywhere.

People no longer view you as a hypochondriac.

There is nothing left to learn the hard way.

Things you buy now won't wear out.

You don't need to hold your stomach in, no matter who walks into the room.

You know all the music played in lifts.

Your eyes won't get much worse.

Your joints are more accurate meteorologists than the national weather forecasters.

Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.

W5: Who, What, When, Where, Why

At one time modern religious poems – what we call "hymns" – were frowned upon and not allowed in public Christian worship. Only the traditional hymnody of the Church was permitted: the Psalms and Canticles.

The Book of Psalms – or Psalter – consists of 150 pieces of poetry of various lengths. Psalms were written for a variety of moods and occasions: praise of God, praise of God's anointed the King, individual and communal laments, and individual and communal thanksgivings. The Psalter is the largest book in the Bible. It is divided into five sections, each concluded by a doxology.

Although several of the Psalms are ascribed to King David, most scholars agree that his authorship is unlikely. Rather, the Psalms are thought to have been written over a period of some 500 years. The majority of them had their origin in the southern kingdom of Judah, and were associated with the worship in the Temple. Some include specific directions for music and ritual.

Traditionally the Episcopal Church has made extensive use of the Psalms in our daily offering of Morning and Evening Prayer. We also use Canticles.

Canticles are pieces of religious poetry, other than Psalms, that are embedded in Holy Scripture. In the Book of Common Prayer, these include the Benedictus (Luke 1: 68-79), the Magnificat, (Luke 1: 46-55), the Nunc Dimittis (Luke 2: 29-32), and the Benedicite (Daniel 3: 57-88 in the Apocrypha). In the Roman and Eastern Churches, there are several additional Canticles regularly used in the Daily Offices.





Wed., 25th March is the FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION. There will be a Mass at 10 AM. It is Fr. Clive's 35th anniversary of Ordination to the Priesthood. The Priesting took place in St. George's Cathedral, Kingston, Ontario, Canada, on the same day that the late Robert Runcie was enthroned as Archbishop of Canterbury. Fr. Clive was ordained just a few yards away from where he served in the Cathedral Choir as boy and man.

With Easter approaching, we would like to hear from anyone willing to donate toward the Easter Candle, Easter Flowers, and our Seven-day Sanctuary Candles. Please see Fr. Clive.

2015 Magazine Subscriptions

Overdue

Magazine subscriptions for this year are now overdue. Please use the enclosed subscription form and send in your remittance in order to resubscribe—if you have not already done so. Vestry policy is that those who do not subscribe will be dropped from our list.

Holy Week and Easter Service Schedule

Sun., 29 Mar.: Palm Sunday: Masses at 9 & 11 AM, Stations of the Cross at 10 AM Mon., 30 Mar.: Monday in Holy Week: Mass at Noon Tues., 31 Mar.: Tuesday in Holy Week: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 1 Apr.: Wednesday in Holy Week: Mass at 10 AM, Tenebrae at 7 PM Thurs., 2 Apr.: Maundy Thursday: Mass at 7 PM, followed by Stripping of Altar & Watch in chapel. Fri., 3 Apr.: Good Friday: Mattins at 9 AM; Liturgy at 3 PM; Stations of the Cross at 7 PM Sat., 4 Apr.: Holy Saturday: Mattins & Ante Communion at 9 AM; Easter Vigil at 9 PM Sun., 5 Apr.: Easter Sunday: Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM

Members of Coldside C of S will be joining us for our Tenebrae service here at St. Salvador's on Wednesday of Holy Week as a witness to our joint commitment to Our Lord and His ministry to the disadvantaged in our area.



Food Cupboard Ministry

The Food Cupboard ministry is continuing to see between 60 and 80 people each week at our Sunday afternoon drop in. We are very grateful to all the people who volunteer their time on Sundays to help run our drop in and to all those who donate goods or money for food items that go into the weekly bags. The Monday bag packing team have been kept busy too, sorting donations and organising the bags.

Wanted

If you have any spare mugs taking up space in your kitchen we would be delighted to add them to our collection of mugs to use on a Sunday afternoon. Our mug supply has been slowly reducing over the last little while due to breakages and disappearance.

Vestry News

Recently the vestry has been considering our PVG responsibilities and working towards completion of the congregational safeguarding checklist.

Thanks go our Rector's Warden for a number of minor repairs effected around the church.

World Day of Prayer

This year's service has been written by the Christian women of the Bahamas with a theme of God's radical love. Our local area service will be hosted by St Salvador's on Friday March 6th at 7pm. Representatives of various local churches will be taking part in the service and there will be refreshments in the Lower hall afterwards.

Why not come and share in this colourful service and join Christians around the world in celebration of God's love and Christian fellowship.

Private Confessions may be made by arrangement with the Rector. If you have never before availed yourself of this means of deepening your spiritual life, Fr. Clive is happy to discuss it with you and help you to prepare.

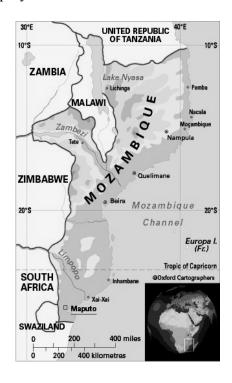
NEWS ABOUT SALVADOR

Excerpt from a letter by Rebekah Capon of WORLD VISION to Dr. K. Noltie:

You may have heard on the news that there has been severe flooding in Mozambique so I wanted to write to let you know that Salvador Alberto and his family are safe and well. Fortunately Salvador Alberto's community in Chioco hasn't been directly affected by the flooding at this time.

However, other parts of Mozambique have been badly hit and our staff on the ground is already responding to the floods. We have been distributing water, food, blankets and shelter kits to those who have been affected. Your sponsorship is helping us to do this as we keep a small portion of your donations aside for use in emergencies – so I'd like to thank you for your support in this.

On a very personal note, I would like to ask you to hold my colleagues in Mozambique in your thoughts. Sadly, one of our local staff members, Alda, lost her life while attempting to cross a river after a bridge had washed out. Please will you hold Alda's family and her colleagues in your thoughts and prayers at this difficult time.



Come Celebrate!

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John and Charles Wesley, Priests (3 March)

The Wesley brothers were sons of an Anglican clergyman and a Puritan mother. Both of them were noted as students for the seriousness of their spirituality and, after ordination, they served briefly and unsuccessfully as missionaries in the American colony of Georgia.

Upon his return to England, John Wesley had a profound religious experience in 1738 that prompted him to begin an itinerant preaching ministry, which recognised no parish boundaries. Such was the power of his sermons, his organisational ability, and his concern for the uneducated and the poor that he initiated real Christian growth and mission in England.

Charles shared with his brother John the building-up of early Methodist societies, as they travelled the country. His special concern was that early Methodists should remain loyal to Anglicanism. He married and settled in Bristol, later in London, concentrating his work on the local Christian communities. His thousands of hymns established a resource of lyrical piety which has enabled generations of Christians to rediscover the refining power of God's love. They celebrate God's work of grace from birth to death, the great events of God's work of salvation and the rich themes of Eucharistic worship, anticipating the taking up of humanity into the divine life. John Wesley died on 2 March 1791 and Charles on 29 March 1788.

St. Adrian and his Companions, Martyrs (4 March)

Adrian, who is said to have been of Hun-

garian descent, settled with many companions in Fife to evangelise the Picts. This was at the time of fierce Viking raids. An attack by Vikings in the year 875 obliged Adrian and his community to withdraw to the island of May in the Firth of Forth. It was there that the raiders overtook them and slaughtered them all. The island, with a monastery founded later by King David I, became an important centre of pilgrimage in medieval Scotland.

St Kessog, Bishop and Martyr 10 March)

Kessog or Kessock was a missionary bishop who laboured among the Picts in the lands of Lennox towards the end of the seventh century. He lived in a hermit's cell on Monk's Island, Loch Lomond, and is thought to have been martyred near there around the year 700.

St Patrick, Bishop, Patron of Ireland (17 March)

The son of a clerical family, Patrick was born among the British peoples living in northwestern England and southwestern Scotland in about 385. He was taken captive by raiders and sold as a slave in Ireland when a young boy. There, he worked as a herdsman and his faith was quickened in adversity. Finally escaping, he went to continental Europe, where he became a priest, and, eventually a bishopfor missionary work in Ireland. Indefatigable in preaching the faith throughout the country and in organising the Church there, despite opposition, Patrick died in about 461, and was buried at Downpatrick.

St Joseph of Nazareth (19 March)

A simple village carpenter, Joseph, of the lineage of King David, was the husband of the blessed Virgin Mary and guardian of the child Jesus. According to tradition, he was older than Mary, and is often depicted as such in art. It is therefore possible that Joseph may have already had children in a previous marriage, which may account for the brothers and sisters of Jesus mentioned in the New Testament.

The Annunciation of the Lord

(25 March)

Since at least the fourth century, the Church has celebrated on this festival the great day of decision, when the Blessed Virgin Mary accepted the role that God had chosen for her in His plan of redemption. From that moment the Holy Child was conceived within her, and the Virgin became the bearer of God the Son, known as 'Theotokos' in the East and translated as 'Mother of God' in the West.

Kalendar

Sun., 1 Mar.: Lent 2: Masses at 9 & 11 AM, Stations of the Cross at 10 AM Tues., 3 Mar.: John & Charles Wesley: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 4 Mar.: St. Adrian & Companions: Mass at 10 AM Sun., 8 Mar.: Lent 3: Masses at 9 & 11 AM, Stations of the Cross at 10 AM Tues., 10 Mar.: St. Kessog: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 11 Mar.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM Sun., 15 Mar.: Lent 4: Masses at 9 & 11 AM, Stations of the Cross at 10 AM Tues., 17 Mar.: St. Patrick: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 18 Mar.: St. Cyril of Jerusalem: Mass at 10 AM Thurs., 19 Mar.: St. Joseph: Mass at 7 PM Sun., 22 Mar.: Lent 5: Masses at 9 & 11 AM, Stations of the Cross at 10 AM Tues., 24 Mar.: Paul Couturier: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 25 Mar.: THE ANNUNCIATION: Mass at 10 AM Sun., 29 Mar.: Palm Sunday: Masses at 9 & 11 AM, Stations of the Cross at 10 AM Mon., 30 Mar.: Monday in Holy Week: Mass at Noon

Mass at 7 PM Wed., 1 Apr.: Wednesday in Holy Week: Mass at 10 AM, Tenebrae at 7 PM Thurs., 2 Apr.: Maundy Thursday: Mass at 7 PM, followed by Stripping of Altar & Watch in chapel. Fri., 3 Apr.: Good Friday: Mattins at 9 AM; Liturgy at 3 PM; Stations of the Cross at 7 PM Sat., 4 Apr.: Holy Saturday: Mattins & Ante Communion at 9 AM; Easter Vigil at 9 PM Sun., 5 Apr.: Easter Sunday: Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM Mon., 6 Apr.: Easter Monday: Mass at Noon Tues., 7 Apr.: Easter Tuesday: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 8 Apr.: Easter Wednesday: Mass at 10 AM Sun., 12 Apr.: Easter 2: Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM Tues., 14 Apr.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 15 Apr.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM Sun., 19 Apr.: Easter 3: Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM Tues., 21 Apr.: St. Anselm of Canterbury: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 22 Apr.: Feria: Mass at 10 AM Sat., 25 Apr.: St. Mark: Mass at 11 AM Sun., 26 Apr.: Easter 4: Masses at 9 AM & 11 AM Tues., 28 Apr.: Feria: Mass at 7 PM Wed., 29 Apr.: St. Catherine of Siena: Mass at 10 AM

Tues., 31 Mar.: Tuesday in Holy Week:

Diocesan Website: www.brechin.anglican.org

The deadline for the next issue of *'Crucis'* is Sunday, 22 Mar. Please send any material to the Editor (the Rector) by that day. Thank you!

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Magazine

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