



The Liberal Catholic Church

IN THE BRITISH ISLES



NEWSLETTER No.15



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CHURCH REGISTER

14 September 2008 -- Baptism
 Alexandra Marie Parker
 at Our Lady of the Starlight,

CHILDS PRAYER TO OUR LADY

Mother of all growing things

In the glory of the morning,
 In the heat of noon-tide bright,
 In the quietness of the evening,
 In the folded peace of night:
 Forget us not, 'though often we
 Will wander far, forgetting Thee.



see Rev. Bertha's Article. P.4
 on Christmas

OUR LADY OF OUR WORLD

FROM A QUICK run through, you might think that this number is a hotchpotch of unrelated items. However, we hope that the various articles will help us all to rethink our position and look towards moving out into the future that awaits us in the troubled and changing world of today.

The Liberal Catholic Church had a tendency to live on the past ideas of our Founding Bishops. Ideas that were then ahead of the times but, let us admit, need adapting -- with great care -- to to-days world. After the excitement of those early days we were fortunate to have Bishop Pigott at the helm to steady things down.

Now, the churches desperately need a fresh approach; careful and considered. We have to deal with our attitudes towards, homosexually

marriage, the equality of women, women priests, and the many *Episcopi Vagantes* that are flourishing around us.

There are now plenty of books and Web Sites available discussing the future of the Church and the world's disasters. Possibly too many Sites calling themselves Liberal Catholic! Surely our work, even if only in small ways, is to do whatever we can to help our Master lead us into the future for which we are being prepared by all this clearing out, this upheaval, natural and manmade, that is upon us.

Nevertheless, we should always remember God's good time is not our limited time span and that the future of His world is secure. Think of our Act of Faith.

OUR CONTENTS

As usual we have tried to use up-to-date material rather than repeat Bishops Wedgwood or Leadbeather's talks. So we have Three Sermons! All, we hope, helpful. Particularly read Rev. Bertha's piece. Different but nevertheless it makes a point..

The Editor

THE FOLLOWING ORATORIES ARE IN INTERCOMMUNION WITH US:

Oratory of Our Lady Theotokos

Brookdale, Quarry Lane, Heavitree, Exeter. EX2 5JR

Holy Eucharist, & Healing Services

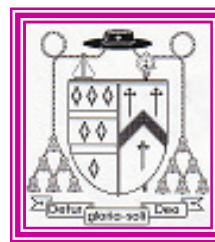
Clergy: The Rt. Rev. John Wheaton
Telephone: 01392 275878 for details

Oratory of Our Lady of Compassion

Flat 2, Abbeyfield Court, Station Road, Sidmouth. EX10 8NW

Services: Regular Holy Eucharist, Benediction & Healing

Clergy: Rev. Albertha Meyer
Telephone: 01395 577164 for details



ORATORIES

Under the Episcopal Vicar General
The Rt. Rev. Allan Barns



ORATORY OF SAINT RAPHAEL

37 Tufton Rd, Rainham, Gillingham, Kent. ME8 7LF

Holy Eucharist: Usually on third Sundays -

Other Services: Please call.

Clergy: The Rev. Robert Harbour,
Priest-in-charge
The Rev. Carol Harbour
Deacon

Telephone: 01634 232673

ORATORY OF OUR LADY OF THE STAR-LIGHT

Jasmine Cottage, Apperley, Glos. GL19 4DE

Holy Eucharist: Please telephone for details.

Complin: Healing/Benediction: As arranged.

Clergy: The Rev. Christopher Parker,
Priest-in Charge
The Rev. Elizabeth Parker
Assistant Priest

Telephone: 01452 780277

ORATORY OF OUR LADY OF COMPASSION

6 Tudor Court, Tunbridge Wells, Kent. TN2 5QH

Services as arranged

Clergy: The Rt. Rev. Allan Barns,
Priest-in-Charge

Telephone:- 01892 689420

EALING:

21 Hollingbourne Gdns. Ealing. W13 8EN

Services as arranged

Clergy: Rev. John McGlashan,

Telephone:- 02089 979449

VISIT OUR WEB SITE

www.lccinbi.org

Or the Main Church Site
<http://TheLiberalCatholicChurch.org>
For useful literature and details of the
World-wide church

or our Clergy can supply leaflets

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LADY

The Fourteenth Sunday after Trinity
Renewal of Heart

In our Church we have Special Intentions for the Sundays after Trinity and today the Intent is Renewal of Heart. This seems most appropriate as it is only ten days since we celebrated the very important Feast of The Assumption of Our Lady.

We all agree that in the present climate of the divisions in the Christian Churches. Our Lady has a particularly important role to play and the words of our collect are especially suitable. "O God, who in thy loving kindness hast appointed a ministry of reconciliation . . ." A ministry of Renewal.

Our Lady, highlighting the hidden truths of the Divine Feminine allows us to slip, if only for a moment, out of time, out of the horrors and devastation of the present, into the Reality of things Eternal, to borrow from next Sunday's Holy Spirit Intent.

From what we have learnt we can realize that Our Lady is part of the duality of God, who is neither male or female but all in all; a milestone, an important one, in the cosmic story. She is Wisdom, that is the feminine aspect of the Godhead and was there at the beginning, clearly negating the Adam and Eve story and the continuing medieval idea that woman is not really an equal to man but a childbearing, unclean adjunct.

We in our Church are used to the Eastern idea of the duality of Yin and Yang, equal in the circle of the Trinity of life and each with a seed of its counterpart at its centre. Thank goodness these ideas seem to be coming to the forward in this Age of Enlightenment. Frantically, the world is being painfully shaken up — spring cleaned — preparing for the Trinity of Light, Love and Power

Trinity of Light, Love and Power of Christ that is once again coming into prominence. We have the seeds of advancement in our sights. Now is the time for Renewal of Heart, that fresh outlook, that taking stock, highlighted by the Intent for today.

At last the Christian Churches have caught sight of this future for the equality of women, this results, as always, in a tussle between the old and the new. One has only to look at the Church of England and also the Roman Church to see the stirring-up that advances in God's plan has created. This is also found in the Liberal Catholic Church, where the Main Church knows that growth must take place but still hangs on to the past and can only make cosmetic alterations to the words.

We in our little group also have a very important part to play, in that we recognize just how essential it is for humanity, and in particular, the churches, to put the past of those early days behind us and advance forward with God's partnership . Male and female created He Him. Maybe this is the first sign of the new Assumption of Our Lady that we celebrated recently.

It is interesting that all our Churches and Oratories are dedicated to Our Lady in her various forms. We are here with Our Lady of the Starlight. Here we have a lady Priest.

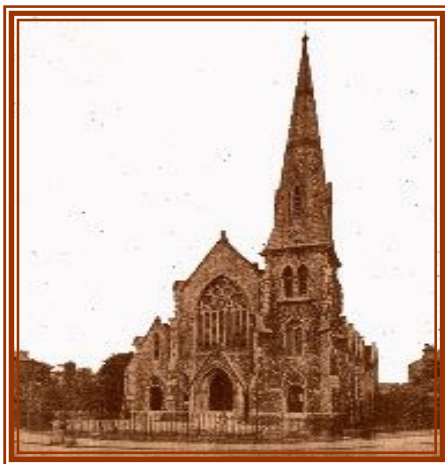
This is a most important advance because the feminine side especially in our services, has, yes we know, a different; but has a fresh and new aspect to advance humanity forward. We also know that this difference seems to worry some or more

clairvoyants, but this proved my point of its importance, of the fact that it is only through duality that we achieve true completion in unity.

Do not for a moment think that because we are a very small group there is nothing that we can do. The energy of thought, of will, of knowledge, of working for humanity is far more effective than just standing at the corner and holding forth.

I am sure that this aspect of the Godhead will continue to grow and bloom and shed the divine mysteries of its fragrance out into the future. I am sure that under the guidance of Our Master all will one day, once again come together and accept that, while in the Church there may be many variations, through the Assumption of Blessed Virgin Mary all have been made one in Christ and that the future of God's united world is secure.

+Allan



**St. Mary's Pro-Cathedral
London**

Bought in 1926. Was a Methodist Church, then a furniture warehouse with the Gallery converted to a first floor and lift in the Nave. Sanctuary and High Altar designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens.

CHRISTMAS

IT WILL NOT BE LONG before we will have Christmas again. That will be a time of gladness and celebration. But what are we actually celebrating? The birth of a child? Yes, but children are being born every day. However, with Christmas something new is coming into our life and we can feel it.

Often in the past, coming home from Midnight Mass it felt as if the world was different. It was like a tremendous joy coming over the world and it was quite infectious. If we compare Christmas with Easter, Christmas is a Festival of Birth. Easter of Death, but . . . Also Resurrection, which means a new birth.

In both cases something new is beginning. We know, of course, that Christmas only comes once a year and so does Easter, but when we apply them to our own lives we shall be able to celebrate Christmas and Easter every day. This means that every day this child shall be born in us. What does this actually imply? Christ told us to be like little children. This means to be open, receptive, spontaneous, cheerful, trusting, being able to dream, full of expectation. Is that not what we are lacking in the present day world?

If we listen to people then we will notice that, on the whole, they are discussing disasters, crimes, diseases, etc. Our newspapers, the television and radio programmes are all full of all kind of miseries. They instil fear, depression, anxiety all of which makes the world around us so gloomy. Look at ourselves. What do we discuss when we are speaking to other people? Mainly crimes, disasters, illnesses and other unpleasant things and very seldom our conversation is cheerful, hopeful, sending out love. Then, once a year

Christmas comes. We force ourselves to an artificial cheerfulness. As long as it is artificial the Christ child cannot be born within our heart.

Let us look for a moment at the Bible story. We are told that the child being born comes from God. King Herod sent out a decree that all newly borns have to be killed. Only this child, whose origin is divine, cannot be killed. So it is with us. If the Christ child being born within our hearts really comes from God it is there forever. Whether we are 20, 40 or even 80 years old, that is not important. That child can never be destroyed. It is there in our hearts and it is open, receptive, trusting, cheerful and full of expectation. In Hebrew, the sacred language of the Old Testament, the word for the mother's breast is related to the word for heaven. So, if we allow that newborn child within us to be fed from above, just like a newborn baby is being fed from its mother's breast, then it will grow and become healthy. That is, in fact, why Christmas is so important and we can celebrate it each day.

The child is born in Bethlehem. Beth means house, and lehem means bread. Christ told us that he is the Bread of Life, so He could not have been born elsewhere.

We are told that the child is of the House of David. David means in Hebrew, the beloved one. David was not so much loved by humanity but he was loved by God. And so was Jesus.

He was born in a stable among the animals. When the Bible speaks of animals it means our bodies, the physical appearance. Therefore the child has to be born among the animals, the ox and the ass, the physical appearance.

A child takes life as it comes. It is constantly expecting something new and exciting to happen. If we identify ourselves with the rational, intellectual which we think that we are expected to be, life will get gloomy and we tend to become anxious or depressed. We will feel disappointed, disillusioned and all our thoughts swell on our misery. When, however, the Christ Child is born within us we shall be able to see the beauty around us, the joy, the Love with which God has created the world. When that last feeling is alive within us we are coming near to experiencing the essence of Christmas.

Approximately at the same time as we are celebrating Christmas the Jewish festival of Chanuka takes place. This is a Festival of Light but the word also means "renewing". The Chanuka light burns in a candlestick which has the form of a tree with branches, just like our Christmas Tree. Here we see that all things are related. Christ is the Light of the World and therefore His birth must be a celebration of Light. Light being born within us, eternal, indestructible. It cannot die because if it will immediately be resurrected so it will be born again.

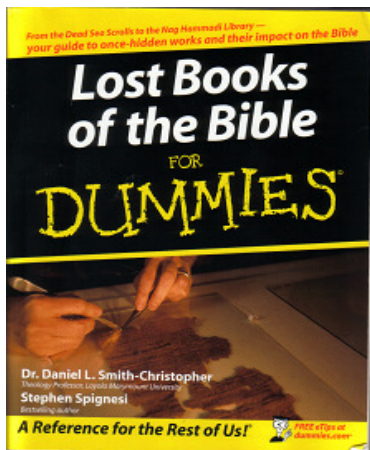
I hope that this Christmas will be a festival of joy, everlasting joy, the joy which comes through Love and through being like a little child.

Then it will be Christmas within our heart every day of the year.

Rev. Bertha Meyer



BOOK REVIEWS



by
**Dr D.L.Smith-Christopher &
 Stephen Spignesi**
 Published by Wiley Publishing
 at £14.99

Anyone interested in the many books that did not make it into the various Bible collections, and there are very many of them, will find this a fascinating, instructive and easy to read book, especially for those of us who do not have an in depth theological training.

Not only does it cover the well known Gnostic Books mentioned by Pagels but we see them in context with the many older Jewish books, such as the Books of Enoch.

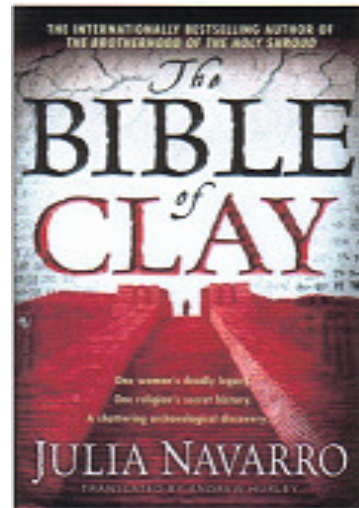
Very readable. Very informative. Thoroughly recommended.

A.B.B



**See our Web Site for details of
 Clergy Training at Tekels Park on
 Saturday 6th September**

Above is a further picture from 1981



by
Julia Navarro
 Published by Random House, Inc.
 available hardback and paperback

A compelling story about a biblical discovery in the remote Iraqi desert and all the intrigue of an archaeological dig with murder, war and history all thrown in.

This story has many strands which at first can be confusing but it is well worth reading on as there is suspense in the many story lines which unfold.

The plot revolves around the rumoured discovery of tablets of clay which predate the Bible by a thousand years and tell the story of Creation as told by Abraham. It begins with a young priest hearing the confession of the murder he is about to commit. An archaeologist announces an excavation to seek these tablets and four old friends with a passion for revenge. This is all set to the backdrop of the imminent invasion of Iraq with flash backs to the original scribe of the tablets some 3,000 years previously, and the horrors of SS Officers in Nazi Germany.

A book which is pure fiction but very thought provoking.

Gail Trott

Control of Speech

Lent 2

Ever since my early days in our Church I have always been surprised to find a Sunday which deals with the above subject. I have never come across this topic in any other Church.

However, when you really think of its influence on our every day life and indeed our spiritual development you can begin to see how much importance we should attach to it, but most of us would not give it a second thought.

We are told in the bible that the tongue is indeed a small member and an unruly one at that but most of us will openly give an opinion on something where our thoughts are not even required or sought.

It could be said that much harm is caused by spreading rumours and untruths but our world today is full of such inaccuracies. So how can we in our own way help to balance the negative with the positive? For a start we could really try much harder when it comes to spreading gossip for really this is no business of ours or anybody else. Therefore, what we hear should not be repeated, and perhaps we should show that we are not interested in such tittle-tattle.

If we have a look at the spiritual effect on ourselves we can see that we need to be more detached from this type of behaviour. The wise man will remain untouched by what he has heard and not let the negativity touch him but most importantly of all that line of gossip ends with him.

Speech is a wonderful gift that we have been given by God and it is disappointing when we hear so

many adults, teenagers and young children using a vocabulary that is alien to the ears, and spoken with such ferocity. Harsh words can be like arrows through the heart. The question of why we use such inappropriate language so freely must be linked with the frustrations and unhappiness that so many people feel today. Perhaps, we all need to take a step back and rekindle our connections with God before we lose the ability to do so.

The ultimate control of speech must be when we say absolutely nothing. In the right place and circumstances, silence says more than words ever can.

Rev Robert Harbour



The Healing Power

One may reasonably assume that every truly dedicated person, and particularly one who is moved by compassion for the sufferings of mankind, is potentially a channel for healing forces, and that this function would become operative to a certain degree whether holding the office of priest or not. Indeed, some people are most remarkably thus endowed by nature, as it were.

*Extract from
Christian Origins & Ceremonial
by Geoffrey Hodson*



BIBLICAL QUIZ THREE

1. The Church holds the cup
2. What stands in the East?
3. Nativity Day
4. Where the clergy hang out
5. Vicar's Assistant
6. Clergy wear strange things in Church
7. Water dunking?
8. Where the preacher stands to pull us out of a hole
9. Who gets led up the aisle?
10. Does carrying one make him a crook?
11. Church Mat
12. Who has a ladder?

QUIZ ANSWERS

1. CHALICE 2. ALTAR 3. CHRISTMAS 4. SANCTUARY
 5. CURATE 6. VESTMENTS 7. BAPTISM 8. PULPIT
 9. BRIDE 10. CROZIER 11. KNEELER 12. JACOB

SOMEONE MUST HAVE SAT THROUGH ONE OF MY SERMONS

After a very long and boring sermon the congregation filed out of the church saying nothing to the preacher. Towards the end of the line was a thoughtful person who always commented on the sermons. "Vicar, today your sermon reminded me of the peace and love of God!" He was thrilled. "No-one has ever said anything like that about my preaching before. Tell me why." "Well - it reminded me of the Peace of God because it passed all understanding and the Love of God because it endured forever!"

