

The Liberal Catholic Church

IN THE BRITISH ISLES



NEWSLETTER No.19



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Consecration of the

Rt. Rev Allan Barns

25th October 1992

By Bishop Roy
Bannister
assisted by

Bishop
Michael
Van Buren

at
Christ the Healer
South Ockendon
Essex

+



CHRISTMAS. Birth. A New beginning. This is something for which the Church is crying out. The Church of England is so divided over women Bishops that the Pope has put his oar in! Schools and Councils do not seem to be allowed to mention Christianity in case they upset another religion, and we are rapidly becoming an atheistic state. There has to be change, there has to be a radical reappraisal of our attitude to religion and responsibility.

This is not just the main Churches but can also be seen in the state of the Liberal Catholic



Church. You have only to look at the Internet to see that numerous branches are springing-up and numerous groups trying to form and work together. When I joined the church in the 1940s such things were unheard of until that first disagreement in America, which so upset Bishop Pigott, who, when asked why he looked so thoughtful in Church replied that surely where better place to bring your problems.

The question is: where does the Liberal Catholic Church in the British Isles stand when looking towards this veiled future that lies in front of Christianity in tomorrows world?.

As is so often the case!!! In the C of E, women seem to be one of the main problems... Here we are well ahead since we firmly believe in the equality of the sexes and Ordain women as equals.

Despite the Pope's efforts I am sure that it will come in God's good time. The trouble is, His time is not ours!

We do not have any answers but it is our duty to keep an open mind and support our Lord's example and mystery teaching.

Behold I make all things new, must be this Christmas message

+Allan, 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 Gardens. 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

**ONLY FIVE POUNDS TO
VISIT
SANTA'S GROTTA
AND GET YOUR FREE GIFT**

SUCH is today's commercial Christmas Season. How many young people know or care about the story of St. Nicholas? Also, I suspect that most of them would prefer a Barbie doll, a Mobile Phone, DVD or Harry Potter book to the gaudy 'tat' that is generally handed out in the December Season. It seems politically incorrect to talk about Christmas any more, with so many other religions that have to be catered for in schools. Maybe Baby Jesus in a Crib is as far as they can go.

All this makes it very difficult to put over the real Christmas message of the rebirth of the future Light in the dark cave of matter. To capture the quiet peace and reassurance that steals over one at the Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve.

All this is just one symptom of the current aggressive breaking up of old forms that is going on in the world today. The killing fields of the past are making their final kick, their final stand, and how disturbing, sad and cruel it all is. It is worth quoting the words of that famous Catholic mystic Bede Griffiths in 1992. 'We are in the hour of God. The whole human race has now come to the moment when everything is at stake, when a vast shift of consciousness will have to take place on a massive scale in all societies and religions for the world to survive'. What happens over the next decade or so is up to us. Humanity is at the death stage and with the coming of the so called New Age we should be looking towards its Resurrection.

Attitudes, rituals, ways of working have to move forward. The autumn of the world is nearly over and we must look to the budding of a new Spring.

This fresh, active and dynamic outlook is surely something inherent in the Liberal Catholic ethos. Its basis was a forward looking up-to-date Liturgy and a more scientific approach to the Mysteries of the Eucharist and other Services.

But we must beware. That was around 1918. Whether we like it or not we are now in the throes of preparing for the future, 'The Hour of God', and all people of goodwill must move forward. Past behavior is not something written on Moses's tablets of stone. The Liberal Catholic Church and its members and friends must carry on the pioneering work of its earthly Founders and continue to be innovative, bold and true to our promise.

Surely this Christmas is an ideal time to make a start. To hand over our Five Pounds of effort and commitment, to enter into the Grotto of today's woe and distribute the free gift of Divine Promise that we will find therein if we can but search. Only thus will we begin to inaugurate that shift of consciousness that Bede Griffiths foretold. Only thus will we experience the peace of Midnight Mass.

A peaceful and rewarding Christmas to everyone.

+Allan

Bede Griffiths's quote is taken from Andrew Harvey's great book 'A Walk with Four Spiritual Guides'

**SEE OUR EDITORIAL AND
OTHER ARTICLES**

CHRISTMAS 2009

Plus some background details

FIRSTLY I must offer up a prayer for the thousands of people in Cumbria who have experienced the devastating floods and the ongoing suffering that this event will cause them in the coming months. Also, we should remember the Policeman who lost his life protecting others, and his wife and their four children who have suffered this terrible loss.

The Lake District is such a beautiful place and it is hard to imagine a picture of damage and destruction on the scale that we have seen this November. Yes, we can cope with the loss of material things but the loss of life is a challenge for all those directly affected.

When I was growing up as a young boy life seemed to be uncomplicated, carefree, with more than just a touch of innocence which is missing today. I had the space and time to allow me to grow up at a pace that was right for me in a stable family environment full of love. I am thankful that I had no distractions of alcohol or drugs and the only electrical gadget I had was a transistor radio. As they say, those were the days when you had no worries or concerns about anything.

I grew up in Tunbridge Wells, Kent and was a member of the Rust-hall Scout troupe and spent many happy years experiencing what they had to offer, which incidentally was a great deal. Skip Boxall, who I understand sadly passed away this year gave his time freely and was indeed a very fine man, and the local boys owe him a debt of gratitude for all his hard work over many years. The summer camps under canvass were very special, and the opportunity to cook over an open fire was just magical. Our mode of transport to

the campsite would more often or not be the local removal van. Picture the scene, all our kit and a substantial number of young boys hanging out the back of the vehicle as we bumped along the road. Today, Health and Safety would have a fit let alone the Police! Happy days!

I also had more than a passing interest in music. I never mastered any instrument although I did try to learn the trumpet but that was an awful racket which I soon gave up. I think the neighbours were more than pleased when that particular chapter finished and the peace and quiet took over again.

- However, I had the opportunity to join St. Paul's Church choir as a chorister under the stewardship of John Francis, who was responsible for many different choirs in the area. I was fortunate to be a member for a number of years and the teaching which I received has helped me enormously with my Services. It is quite remarkable to think that in those days a Parish Church choir consisted of somewhere in the region of forty to fifty singers of which twenty or so were young boys. Saturdays were popular for weddings at the Church, and we would roll up on cycles with five minutes to spare and transform ourselves from cricketers to angelic choristers for the princely sum of half a crown - this was more than enough to pay for a swim at the local baths and a treat for the journey home!

We all need a sense of belonging, and for me going down memory lane for just this short time has filled me with a warm glow.

May the true peace
of Christmas be with us all.

Rev Robert Harbour

THE FUTURE OF OUR CHURCH

Firstly, These are notes for an informal discussion. It is **your** ideas and points that we want to hear, so please, please, give us your comments and thoughts.

Now to set the scene.

The future of the Christian Church is something that affects us all.

We know that the Aquarian Age will gradually show its special character with the waters of the Spirit being freely poured forth for all and not seemly restricted to any particular secret group. But in the meantime the past is under pressure, the battle seems to be joined between those who wish to retain the old and tried ways, patterns given to us 2000 years ago AND preserved and also developed through wars and fire, and the new ephemeral bright easygoing ideas of today. The Traditionalists and the Liberals.

We are all only too familiar with the often bitter general church scene and lack of tolerance, but what about our own Liberal Catholic Church. In a less energetic way a similar interim state applies as well. Here also old and valued forms are being called into question and broken up. This, surely, is a good sign. A group of current Bishops, albeit unconsciously, have been given the duty of creating outer dissension, breaking up the old church forms so that we now have many smaller Liberal Catholic Communities, each protecting its own vision of the work of our Master. This clearing away of old buildings, is only the first stage of the work that lies ahead. If we do not rise to the promise of the

future we will be seen as anachronisms, unimportant. The teaching of this future is surely that separate churches and religions will no longer be necessary. We are all part of an Open University, each teaching the truth as we can grasp it, and putting forth with love, Christ's promise to the world.

The time is ripe for the Liberal Catholic Church In the British Isles to emerge and show its true worth. We should not just be a tiny self centred little isolated group. We are part of the world-wide Liberal Catholic Church. We should all work together. We need to rid ourselves of the idea that our church, or any church, has a monopoly of the attention of Christ. All are, or should be, working for the common good. This requires love, tolerance and team work. Does it really matter to God that some like ceremonial and some do not; some think this way and some do not agree. What does matter is intolerance; lack of care and love for others. We are all Christ's servants.

Many ideas and pointers for the advancement of Christianity have been brought through for us over the years, apart from our own Founders work, think of the Alice Bailey teaching of a Universal Church or that of White Eagle or what about the Conductor Thomas Hohstadt's radical book *Dying to Live*, 'preparing the church for a future of change'!!

We should remember Elijah in 1Kings 19:12, and listen for the 'still small voice' that follows all the noise and turmoil of the world.

I think that we have been given the opportunity to take an active role in the Churches future; to work with other groups; to attract younger workers into our own group. We are all getting older!

Prayer and meditation on our purpose are needed. We are not going to have answers handed to us on a platen!

1) We should look at the wording of our services. Are they in keeping with the new openness and corporate ritual?

2) We should enlarge our current contact with other LCC Churches and Groups. Yes, lots of Love and Tolerance are required and we are already trying.

3) We should realise the importance of setting up a Web Site in this modern world.

4) We should build on the importance and involvement of the, so called laity. They are vital to the life of the Church. Do we consult them and involve them enough? Did not our early Church Fathers talk about the 'priesthood of the Laity'? Beware.

If we do not do something positive we will die and the support of our Master will go over to the many more active groups that are catching the mood of the future. It is up to us.

**+Allan
Lent 2006**



Rev 'Liz' Parker

Peace at Christmas

by

Rev. E Parker

Ever since mankind came into being there has been times of great peace and joy and also horrible moments of discord and war.

We have only to take a fleeting glimpse at the Bible to realise that metaphorical and legendary Garden of Eden was a peaceful place until Eve and Adam ate of the fruit of knowledge and the consequences of the material world ensued. Is this a simple explanation of all the evil in the world? Perhaps there is more to it. The Old Testament is a witness to that search to regain the peace of paradise

On a more sober note the trials of the Tribes of Israel in their journeying to the Promised Land has been interpreted as travelling to a literal land and as a result the state of Israel has come into being. What starts out as search for peace and a home has somehow grown into the kind of strife that is the opposite of the intention. .

Maybe peace is not just found in a place but is found elsewhere. Maybe our understanding of the meaning of peace needs to be reassessed. Maybe we can turn to the Bible for some insight into the woes of the world.

Epistle of St Paul to the Galatians 5, verse 13.

Love thy neighbour as thyself. Walk in the spirit ... flesh lusteth against the spirit and the spirit against the flesh

Here we have the message that we have two natures the one is opposed to the other: Spirit and material. If we live a materially centred life we do not create the condi-

tions for the spirit to dwell in us, and vice versa, so if we live in the spirit we walk in the spirit, in other words we lead a spiritual life that leads to peace. St Paul reminds us of the commandment given by the Christ to love one another as ourselves. We do not usually wish ourselves harm and yearn for an end to the opposing thoughts and feelings we experience, so to walk in the spirit will give us that chance of inner peace and experience the fruit of the spirit. (The fruit of the spirit is love, joy peace, long suffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance).

The words of Jesus are quoted to give further illumination on peace. in St John 14, 8th verse, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give to you; not as the world giveth give I unto you. Let your heart be not troubled, neither let it be afraid."

We are not given any further guidance at this point in time but this passage suggests a continuing inner journey which may be a little concerning to our personalities at times in that we become troubled or fearful. We need not concern our hearts with this but dwell in the Peace that Christ will reveal to us if we place ourselves in a position to receive that peace.

A hymn that frames our heart and mind to receive that peace is 'Make me a channel of your peace' to help us develop those positive inner qualities that create the culture of inner receptivity for the spirit so that we can go forth and walk in peace, leaving the fleshly desires that mitigate against the peace of the spirit that dwells deeply within us.

At every Eucharist we hear the words of the minor benediction, 'The peace of the Lord be always

with you' and receive the Peace let us remember the words of the Lord, 'Peace I leave with you' and receive that peace in our hearts, putting an end (at least temporarily) to the strivings of the world.

I would like to end with a quotation from the Upanishads, 'This is Peace, that is Peace. Peace comes from Peace. Take Peace from Peace and the remainder is peace. May peace and peace and peace be everywhere'...this Christmas, now!

**Rev. E. Parker
Christmas 2009**

ASSOCIATION WITH THE LCC -

Rev. E. Parker

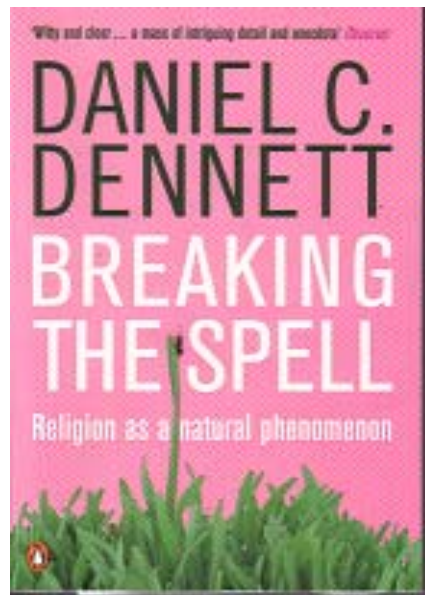
Like Chris my Acupuncturist was also + John Wheaton whom I first met in 1971 and this is how I came to know of the Liberal Catholic Church. Chris and I would visit him together. I had been in the Church of England as a child and a member of our local choir. I became intrigued with the peace that pervaded +John's Oratory and the lack of dogma in the LCC. I had struggled with Christianity especially when I discovered Indian philosophy through E.M. Forster's book, 'A Passage to India.' When we met Bishop Allan Barns and his wife Beryl we were encouraged when we enquired about church services and warmly welcomed. We both joined the Liberal Catholic Church in the Eighties within the Grail Community and together we progressed as servers up through the Minor Orders.

I reached the last of the Minor Ordinations as Acolyte and was not allowed to take Major Orders. Women were not allowed to do that kind of thing. I tried to fit back in with the C of E who were discussing Ordi-

Women were not allowed to do that kind of thing. I tried to fit back in with the C of E who were discussing Ordination of women, but found the doctrine too restrictive. Through Theosophy I had discovered the earlier Christian texts which struck me as more meaningful. For several years I felt I was the proverbial square peg in a round hole. After our return from living in India Chris was ordained priest and I supported him by serving and tending to Church business. After Beryl Barns died we left the Grail Community for which we still have a great fondness, joining with +Allan forming the Independent LCC Synod which was later subsumed into the Liberal Catholic Church in The British Isles under Presiding + Maurice Warnon of the GCS. The only real difference of the GCS to the Traditional LCC is in the approach to women who are treated as equals and permitted into Minor Orders and to be Ordained into the Major Orders. This removal of the glass ceiling meant that I could now fulfill my calling and was duly Ordained by +Allan as a Sub Deacon on the 07/08/05 into the Diaconate on the 08/04/06 and a priest on the numerically significant day of the 07/07/07. As assistant priest I now regularly take the Eucharist and the full range of other services sharing in all the duties of the parish with Chris. This includes such things as being Hospital Chaplain, conducting funerals or marriages and visiting parishioners in their homes to take them the Sacrament or to give them healing as well as writing sermons and being there for people when needed. It has been a wonderful journey that continues onwards and upwards...

Rev .E. Parker

BOOK REVIEW



And now for something different

*Published by Penguins Books
London. 2006. £10.99*

*Written by **Daniel C. Dennett**
'Religion as a natural phenomenon'*

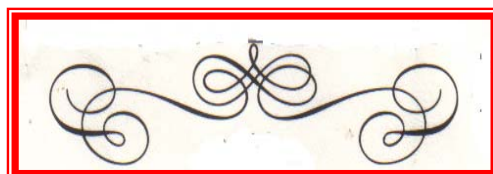
A clear, easy to read explanation of the background and development of the various religions and their effect on our attitudes. Maybe written by an atheist but a very fairly argued and comprehensive summary of the facts and the effect that religions have on the world today.

'Witty and clear. A mass of intriguing detail and anecdote.' *Observer*

ABB

The religion that is afraid of science dishonours God and commits suicide.

Ralph Waldo Emerson



ASSOCIATION WITH THE LCC -

Rev. Chris Parker

My connection with the LCC began in the early seventies attending meetings of the Theosophical Society in Cheltenham. I was introduced to the Theosophical works of HPB and Annie Besant before encountering the writings of Bishops Leadbeater and Wedgewood who wrote on many subjects but are possibly best known for their connection with the Liberal Catholic Church. Their writings appealed to me, having an Anglo Catholic background. Unfortunately at that time nobody seemed to know where the nearest Liberal Catholic church was located.

By a strange quirk of fate I discovered that my Acupuncturist in Exeter was an LCC priest, we talked about the LCC on various occasions and he would let me sit quietly in his Oratory while waiting for my appointments. Little did I know then that over thirty years later he would be a good friend having set me on the path of being a Liberal Catholic, his name; Bishop John Wheaton.

Back then I obtained my first liturgy which I still use to this day, formally joining the Church within the Grail Community. I first became a server and progressed slowly through the minor orders during the eighties and nineties and ordained as a Deacon in 1996 just before Liz and I went to India to live and work. On our return we set up the Oratory of Our Lady of the Star Light and I was ordained priest in 2000 at Tekel's Park. During my years in the Grail Community I was sponsored and trained by Bishop Allan Barns so when he left to form an Independent Synod I naturally followed him and again into the GCS under Bishop Maurice Warnon.

An extract from

TEACHING and WORSHIP of the LIBERAL CATHOLIC CHURCH by Rev. Edmund Sheehan

The Liberal Catholic Church, like all Christian churches, offers to the world an organization based on four distinct and separate principles:

A system of religious worship.

A teaching to explain that worship, and the relationship between God, man and the universe.

A policy, formulated by the hierarchy, to guide the church in its relations with the laity, the State and other departments of society.

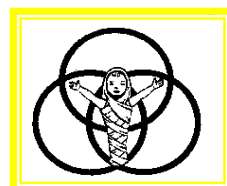
A standard of ethics to guide its adherents in the conduct of their daily lives.

HIGH MASS



at

Our Lady of the Starlight
Revs. Beryl Barns,
Bishop Allan & Rev.
Chris Parker



CHRISTMAS 2009 EASY QUIZ

1. Who looked out on a Feast Day?
2. Could be pinching someone else's work?
3. What did the angels say to the Shepherds?
4. What gets fat at Christmas?
5. One would be mad not to pull them
6. Who comes down the chimney? (*easy one*)
7. What do you hear in the snow?
8. Round, dark and fruity with holly on top
9. They must have been starry-eyed
10. Who had a red nose?
11. What should we deck our halls with?
12. Frankincense, myrrh and?

QUIZ ANSWERS

9. WISE MEN 10. RUDOLPH 11. HOLLY 12. GOLD
6. SANTA CLAUS 7. SLEIGH BELLS 8. CHRISTMAS PUDDING
WENCESLAS 2. CRIB 3. NOEL 4. THE GOOSE 5. CRACKERS

A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father, Help us remember the birth of Jesus,
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and worship of the wise men.