

Simple words that we all could profit from

Herewith an interesting few words found among the personal effects of the late Enid Sale and read out at her funeral. Downloaded from the Australian-based web site 'John Mark Ministries' (www.jmm.org.au), and penned by Rev Rowland Croucher and others, it's the kind of thing many of us could profit from!

"Lord Thou knowest better than I know myself, that I am growing older and will someday be old.

"Keep me from the fatal habit of thinking I must say something on every subject and on every occasion.

"Release me from craving to straighten out everybody's affairs.

"Make me thoughtful but not moody; helpful but not bossy. With my vast store of wisdom, it seems a pity not to use it all, but Thou knowest Lord that I want a few friends at the end.

"Keep my mind free from the recital of endless details: give me wings to get to the point. Seal my lips on my aches and pains. They are increasing, and love of rehearsing them is becoming sweeter as the years go by. I dare not ask for grace to

enjoy the tales of others' pains, but help me to endure them with patience.

"I dare not ask for improved memory, but for a growing humility and a lessening cocksureness when my memory seems to clash with the memories of others. Teach me the glorious lesson that occasionally I may be mistaken.

"Keep me reasonably sweet: I do not

want to be a Saint – some of them are so hard to live with – but a sour old person is one of the crowning works of the devil. Give me the ability to see good things in unexpected people. And give me, Lord, the grace to tell them so."



Fr Stephen: "wise words brought to us by the late Enid Sale"

Caring Concerns

The Parish Church is hoping to run the five-week Caring Concerns

course in the parish during Eastertide 2015 (that is, after Easter).

It will cover basic listening skills, and offer guidance on how (and how not!) to deal with some of the scenarios most frequently met when visiting on behalf of the church.

If you are interested in helping Fr Stephen and the pastoral assistants in this work please let him, Andrea or Pam know, and make a note in your diary!

Going into the oil business

Our Archbishop was formerly employed in the Oil Industry. Read on to see how we all still are! This subject has been chosen to mark the arrival of the safe, set in the east wall of the Martin Chapel, for reserving Holy Oils.

We all are familiar with oil, whether it is for cooking, heating, lubricating, etc. The Jewish people of the Old Testament were very aware of oil being the “life-blood” of society. The oil they knew was olive oil and it is that which we use in Church. For the Jews a plentiful supply of oil, corn and wine was a sign of God’s favour. It remains a sign of God’s blessing because it represents all that is best in life, God’s generosity to the people He loves.

In many churches oil is used in two ways: votive lamps and anointing people. Here in Edenbridge we do not have votive lamps but we do use oil in the Sacraments of Baptism and Confirmation, and Unction (for the sick). It is also used in the Ordination of Priests.

Sacramental Oil is a symbol reminding us of God’s generosity to us and of His never-ending love for us. When we anoint people in Church it is much more than a symbol as it becomes one of the channels by which God’s power comes into the world, by which he blesses us with His Holy Spirit. The oil used is essentially olive oil but special because it is set aside specially for God’s purposes, being blessed by a Bishop at what is known as the Chrism Mass on Maundy Thursday. Our oil is collected by Fr Stephen annually at the Chrism Mass. The three oils used are all olive oil but named for the purpose for

which they are used: 1. Oil of the sick, 2. Oil of catechumens and the holy Chrism.

The oil of the Sick is for those sick in mind or body, for those undergoing surgery or nearing death. The letter to St James reads, “Is any among you sick? Let him call for the elders of the church, and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord, and the Lord will raise him up.”

The oil of catechumens relates to the anointing of catechumens, i.e. people preparing to become Christian, hence the anointing of those being baptised. Anointing with the sign of the cross takes place early in the service, which we often witness. It is a symbol which points to the gift of the Holy Spirit which comes to a newly baptised person.

Holy Chrism is the oil used to anoint people at their Confirmation and which is used to anoint priests at their Ordination. It is also used at the consecration of altars and Church buildings. ‘Consecration’ means making holy and setting apart for God’s purposes. In this case a scented balsam is mixed with the olive oil.

Oil is normally applied by a priest using a finger or thumb, and is usually applied in the form of a cross. This way the recipient at baptism or confirmation is ‘sealed’ with the Holy Spirit. In Revelation the servants of God are “sealed upon their foreheads”. The sick or dying are also anointed on the palms of their hands. In confirmation or ordination the anointing is in addition to the action of ‘Laying-on of Hands’.

God makes the ordinary things of the world, like oil, extra-special. He does this when, by the means of Holy Oils, He pours His healing and life-giving spirit into the Church and upon Her members.

Paul Baker

A jolly good day out at Portsmouth dockyards

On Saturday 18 October three dozen souls from St Peter & St Paul took the coach to Portsmouth.

Most of us were dropped at the D-Day Museum on the sea front where the main attraction is the spectacular Overlord tapestry which mainly describes the D-Day events of 1944. Stretching the full length of the hall, the tapestry was worked on by 20 embroiderers and five apprentices from the Royal School of Embroidery over a five-year period.

Some of the party went to the Naval Dockyards to see HMS Warrior, built in 1860 and the pride of Queen Victoria's fleet, HMS Victory, the Royal Navy's most famous warship used by Lord Nelson at the Battle of Trafalgar, and many other modern Naval vessels. They visited the new building housing the remains of the Mary Rose – Henry VIII's Tudor warship raised from the sea bed in the Solent and restored at the Naval Dockyard.

The rest of the day was spent eating lunch, with some of us enjoying a glass of wine, ascending the Spinnaker Tower, shopping, and enjoying boat trips around the harbour and many other varied activities. For Pat it was a very special day; she was met at the museum by her daughter, son-in law and grand-daughter and whisked away to lunch with her sister –



who brought her back for the return journey.

The weather was perfect, the whole day was just wonderful and we arrived back in Edenbridge feeling elated after such a great day out. *Pam*

Last Chance Animal Rescue

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Edenbridge Churches in Covenant – an update

The Annual General Meeting of the ECC will be at 8 pm on Wednesday 19 November, and the next ECC service at 6.30 pm on Sunday 23 November at St Lawrence's RC. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Dates of the ECC Sunday evening services at 6.30pm for 2015 have been agreed as: 25 January at Church of St Peter & St Paul; 31 May at Holy Trinity Church, Crockham Hill; 19 July at St John's Marsh Green; 20 September at the Eden Church; 22 November at St Lawrence's RC Church

ECC December events noticeboard

The community noticeboard at Edenbridge Station has been reserved for the ECC.

Please ensure that Jill Wastell and Bernard Oldfield are notified of any local events planned for December by any of the

five churches and/or BRIDGES, as soon as possible so that they can be included: for example, any special carol services, Christmas Fairs, etc.

The Christmas Lunch organised by the ECC at BRIDGES

The Eden Church is in charge this year, under the leadership of Dorothy Sutton.

Anyone wishing to offer to help should contact her directly by email at dorothyesutton@icloud.com or phone 01732 862121.

ECC Lent Groups 2015

These will follow the same pattern as this year, in the weeks of Wednesdays 25 February and 4, 11, 18, and 25 March 2015.

They will be based upon a course 'Challenging Poverty' being produced by a team led by the Bishop of Tonbridge for use throughout the Rochester Diocese.

Bernard Oldfield



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Diary dates

Saturday 1 November

Mens' Breakfast, St Paulinus, Marlpit Hill, 8.30am

Sunday 2 November

All Saints's service 9.30am

Monday 3 November

All Souls' requiem 7.30pm

Sunday 9 November

Remembrance Sunday Service, Parish Church, 2.30pm including dedication of memorial stone in Churchyard (Ceremony at Hospital War Memorial is at 11am)

Wednesday 19 November

Edenbridge Churches in Covenant AGM, 8.00 pm at BRIDGES

Sunday 23 November

ECC service, 6.30 pm St Lawrence's RC Church

Edenbridge Parish News is published monthly by the Parish Church of St Peter & St Paul, Church Street, Edenbridge, Kent. Contact Fr Stephen Mitchell. Tel: 01732 862258.

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