



*“And if Satan, vexing sore, flesh or spirit should assail.”*  
*“The world, the flesh, and Satan dwell around the path I tread.”*

Perhaps not quite the start to a clergy letter that you would expect! For “*Satan*”, or course, we can read “*temptation*”, and the season of Lent gives us a period of time to examine our attitudes to temptation. Too often we follow the mantra of Oscar Wilde – “I can resist anything but temptation” - but temptation is really nothing more than will-power; to put it more bluntly, you’ve either got it or you haven’t.

For Jesus was tempted in the wilderness – the bible tells us for “40 days”, but that is just an old Hebrew expression for “a period of time”. Matthew and Luke tell us in some detail what the testing time involved, and we are left to interpret that in our own way; Mark merely gives us that fact that he *was* tempted. But who, or what, is this Satan?

In the Old Testament, Satan is often spelled with a small “s” –meaning generally an adversary, antagonist, opponent of someone or something. The word hadn’t yet achieved its dark, demonic, devilish meaning. A “satan” was someone who pleaded a cause against another person, even in the name of God. In Numbers 22 we read that satan is the angel of the Lord who stands in Balaam’s way. Solomon declares that God has given him such peace and prosperity that he has no satan left to oppose him (1 Kings 5). Gradually the word came to mean “someone who pleads a case against a person”, rather the opposite of the Holy Spirit, who is our guide, comforter, paraclete and advocate.

In the New Testament, Satan takes on a rather darker side; he is directly reported to be behind human disease and suffering – in Luke 13.18 we read “Here is this woman, a daughter of Abraham [*ie a Jew*], who has been bound by Satan for 18 long years”. It is Satan who seduces Judas ((Luke 22.3). Satan takes on a “personified” role, and is the direct antithesis of God. It is in this context that Jesus goes into the wilderness to be tested. He has a choice – God or Satan – but of course it’s really *no* choice. He remained faithful to the will of his heavenly Father, which ultimately saw his death on a cross. Which will *we* choose – God or Satan?

*Alan.*  
**Visitors’ Views.**

Some **January** extracts from the Visitors’ book in St. Mary’s Church:-

12<sup>th</sup>—‘How peaceful’

20<sup>th</sup>—‘Two visitors from Australia ‘!!!!!!!!!!!!’

23<sup>rd</sup>—2 Visitors from York!

27<sup>th</sup>—A visitor from Hull wrote:-‘I enjoyed reading the whole of this book and it was very enlightening.’

A contribution sent by Brian Robinson who finds time on each occasion he goes into the church to read it. Did you know we have a Visitor’s Book?

## Over to you...

How many of you are aware that there is a society for the Appreciation of Clouds?

As you know I am an avid radio fan in the early hours of the day mainly because of insomnia. So I frequently listen to Paul Hudson's (Oh I love his shirts and ties!) Weather Show at 6a.m. on a Saturday. I was intrigued to hear the president of the said society extolling the beauty of clouds and the fact that some people wend away hours observing them. In fact there is a 'Cloud of the month' picture sent in by a member! Last month from Tromso in Norway.

It was a highly charged cloud - a celestial light display known as the Aurora Borealis, better known as the Northern Lights. This is found in the polar region of the Northern Hemisphere. Not a cloud per se but energised atmospheric molecules which have been excited by electrons and protons emitted by the sun. Aurora is the Roman Goddess of the sun. (Alan and I have seen the Northern lights from that area in Norway and from a flight which went over them-all truly amazing.)

It is no different from looking at a beautiful scene in the Dales or across the Lakes and Valleys. People often say this is where they find peace or feel at one with God. As we approach Easter and the Spring time of the year let us be more mindful of what is around us and take time to reflect upon it.

SW

### St. Mary's Ladies' Group

David Lee came to entertain us with tales of weddings he has photographed since 1963, starting with unnamed vicars who forgot to turn up for the ceremony, a coach parking in the wrong church carpark delivering the congregation to the wrong wedding, who realised and all walked out after the first hymn! A nervous vicar's shaking hand was responsible for the ring falling into the grating at Horkstow church, resulting in the groom, best man and ushers on their hands and knees trying to lift the rusty grating to retrieve the ring. Another vicar had been playing cricket, expecting to be out early in the innings but ended up running into church still wearing his cricket whites, very out of breath and late! At one wedding the groom disappeared as a manhole cover opened! Many things have been forgotten:- hired outfits have omitted trousers, Dad has forgotten his teeth, a bossy Mother-of-the-bride arrived at the church in her slippers, a bride holding her wedding at Forest Pines found she had left her dress in Keelby. There was the colour-co-ordinated wedding where both mothers arrived in identical outfits and hats, the invitation to wear uniform expecting military outfits but resulting in one guest wearing his traffic warden uniform and the whole wedding party from New Holland arriving at Barrow Church in a green Lincolnshire Roadcar bus! John Ames had drawn the cartoons that accompanied the talk.

### Shoebox Group

We are appealing for donations of *wool, felt, fabric, velcro, elastic, buttons and ribbon* for use in making items for the shoeboxes. So if you find any spare bits and bobs when you are Spring cleaning we'd be very grateful to receive and 'recycle' them. (It doesn't matter if they're not full balls or big pieces, as odds and ends are also really useful to us.)

Our next Shoebox Group meeting is on **Tuesday 3rd March 1:30-3:00** in the Church Hall...the kettle will be on ready to greet you!

Julia Wilson

**Church**  
**Spring Cleaning**  
**Tuesday 31st March**

We would be delighted and very grateful to see anyone who can spare an hour or more on the morning of Tuesday 31st March (starting at 9am) to help with the Annual Spring Clean. Volunteers will be rewarded for their efforts with unlimited tea, coffee and biscuits! Look forward to seeing you there!  
Thanks!

*Bishop Christopher writes.....*

I'm always deeply moved by the way the gospel of Mark describes the events immediately after Jesus' baptism. Many of you will have heard the passage read a few Sundays ago. Mark tells us that a voice came from heaven, saying, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased." And he continues, "And the Spirit immediately drove Jesus out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him."

The passage has a dark undertone: right at the start of his public ministry, Jesus is driven out into the wilderness – to the dry, dusty, inhospitable desert where there is nothing to comfort him. And there, he is tempted by Satan: he has to face down the demons of fear, anxiety and loneliness, and - we could imagine - a deep discomfort that prepared Jesus for his Passion.

But the passage is also full of hope, because it shows us that Jesus came into the darkness and the violence of our world precisely in order to be joined to our broken-ness and our frailty, and to show us that it is possible to face it, to wrestle with it, to live through it, and to come out the other side. Whenever we find ourselves in the wilderness of disease, loneliness, joblessness, depression, or the many other things that challenge us, Jesus meets us there in order to bear our burdens with us and for us. He will wait on us as the angels waited on him, and we will not be alone. But there are things we will go through in life, demons we will have to face, because that is the reality of human existence. The season of Lent, with all its opportunities for reflection, can sometimes bring us face to face with uncomfortable truths, but the greatest truth of all is that the depth of God's love for us, shown in the death of Jesus on the cross, is also present in God's gift of new life, offered to us all, in the promise and the joy of Easter Day.

+ Christopher

**Women's World Day of Prayer**

**Friday March 6<sup>th</sup>**

Service at The Salvation Army Citadel

11am

Followed by Refreshments

Praying for The Bahamas

All are Welcome

**Readers' Day at Ropery Hall**

Whether you love reading or have always wanted to find out how writers get published or what goes into researching a book or if you'd simply like to hear great stories from those who write them, why not join us for Readers' Day hosted by Yorkshire writer and poet James Nash on Saturday, March 14?

Enjoy presentations by three entertaining writers – Natalie Hynes, Stephen May and Helen Cadbury - in the company of fellow book lovers and take part in in-conversation sessions looking at all aspects of writing, not to mention the chance to chat to the authors over lunch and a cup of tea. The price, £18, includes a buffet lunch and light refreshments. The day begins at 10.30am and ends at 3pm. Tickets can be bought online at [www.roperyhall.co.uk](http://www.roperyhall.co.uk). in person at The Craft Gallery or by calling 01652 660380.

**Mothering Sunday – March 15<sup>th</sup>**

Family Eucharist with members of St. Peter's School – 9.30.

**Mothers' Union notes**

Linda welcomed everyone to our February meeting especially to the ladies from Trinity Fellowship and our speaker Ruth Blythe who was to speak about this year's Women's World day of Prayer Service written by the women from The Bahamas. She was to be ably assisted by Sue Brumpton who operated the power point display.

We started with a short service singing "Brother, Sister let me serve you". The reading was from John 13 v 1-17 read by Brenda Skinner. Linda led us in prayers, (remembering Janet & Brian both ill with flu and Iris who is convalescing). After giving out notices. Linda passed over to Ruth who gave an in depth description of The Bahamas and their history complemented by the power point display. The Bahamas, an archipelago in the Caribbean, consists of 700 separate islands, the most northerly being 52 miles off the Florida coast. They cover 100,000 miles of water, the two main islands being New Providence and Grand Bahama. The national symbol is the Yellow Elder, this flower was chosen because it is native to the islands and blooms throughout the year. The other national symbols are the flamingo, featured in this year's artwork, and the lignum vitae – tree of life. This tree is used for medicinal purposes and its bark is used in boat building and making children's toys. The Bahamas flag colours are symbolic of the country – gold for the sun - aquamarine for the sea and black for the strength of the people.

These islands were first discovered by Europeans when Christopher Columbus arrived in 1492. The original inhabitants were Lucayan and Arawac Indians. In a few short years many died from diseases brought over by Europeans, the surviving being enslaved to work in the gold mines.

We saw many pictures of buildings and statues on the islands, from Fort Fincastle established in 1666 by English settlers through to the modern government buildings and health centres of today. Parliament square has a statue of Queen Victoria. The Bahamas are self-governing and have full independence in the commonwealth with Queen Elizabeth II still being Head of State.

We also saw pictures of schoolchildren (in uniform) looking very happy, schooling is compulsory from age 5 to 16. Many of the scholars who leave the islands to study abroad rarely return.

Christianity is dominant in the islands, 90% of the population having a religious belief. The churches today are helping in practical ways including running drug rehabilitation camps, working with HIV and Aids and coordinating funding and managing numerous social and street programmes.

The spirit of the people is celebrated in art and craft, music, dance, theatre, fashion, native straw industry, cuisine, storytelling and the festival arts. The Junkanoo Parade celebrates all these.

Chantal Bethel is the artist responsible for the lovely picture produced for this year's service. The picture is named "Blessed" and shows the flamingo. It celebrates The Bahamas' blessings as they share with the world across the ocean. The flamingos bow at the feet of Christ for there is forgiveness, peace and love in this submission.  
(A copy of this picture is on display on The Mothers Union notice board at the back of church.)

Brenda thanked Ruth for an excellent insight of the life in The Bahamas and Sue for operating the power point display. We look forward to taking part in the service written by the Bahamian Ladies B.S.

March 4<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Corporate Communion

March 6<sup>th</sup> 11 am Womens World Day of Prayer Service at Salvation Army

March 18<sup>th</sup> 2pm Quiet Afternoon led by Father David Rowett

All are welcome to this meeting.

### **Wilderspin School Museum**

We have been awarded Museum Accreditation – so now we are “officially” a museum.

This is an important “industry” quality mark with nationally agreed standards for museums in the UK. There are currently around 1,800 museums participating in the scheme.

It doesn't come easily but reflects the hard work of our volunteers over the last five years. This includes what we do “front of house” and “behind the scenes” including management practices, how we care for the building, our collections and displays, and how we look after our visitors and users of the museum.

Tickets are now on sale for Sing with a Swing on Tuesday 24 March, from 2pm. Come along and enjoy a sing-along over afternoon tea with Laurie Robinson playing music from the 1920s-40s. Cost: £3.

Other events in March include: a Table Top Sale on Saturday 28 March, 11am – 3pm. Telephone (01652) 635172 to reserve your table to recycle your unwanted bric a brac. Our Easter Eggcitement Egg Hunt and Teddy Trail start from Saturday 28 March. The New County Choir is having an Easter concert on Sunday evening, 29th March.

### **Civic Society**

On Friday 20th March, Nigel Land takes us back almost two hundred years to the birth of the bicycle, and examines its impact on personal mobility, women's emancipation and improved roads. Barton played its part in this story with the involvement of Hopper and Co.

The talk takes place at the Assembly Rooms, at 7.30pm. Non members are always welcome: £2.

FROM THE REGISTERS:

#### **Baptisms:-**

Feb 22 Finley George HARPER son of Melanie Kim & Paul Andrew HARPER

Jacob Michael Carl WELSH son of Kirsty Louise BROUGHTON & Christopher James WELSH

#### **Marriages:-**

Feb 21 Steven James ANDREW & Rebecca Elizabeth BLAKEY

#### **Funerals:-**

Feb 2 Dorothy Joan MARROWS

Feb 4 George William HALL

Pearl Alice HENNCHEN

Feb 25 Beryl WHYATT

Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> Mar

Lent 2

8.00 am

Said Eucharist

9.30 am

Parish Eucharist

2.30 pm

Service at The Willows

6.00 pm

Choral Evensong

Mon 2<sup>nd</sup>

9.30 am

Toddler Time

6.00 pm

Wedding Blessing

Tues 3<sup>rd</sup>

1.30 pm

Shoobox working party (Hall)

Wed 4<sup>th</sup>

9.30 am

Said Eucharist (MU Corporate)

10.15 am

Diary meeting (Vicarage)

7.00 pm

Deanery Synod (Hibaldstow)

7.30 pm

Ladies' Group

Fri 6 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	Women's World Day of Prayer (Salvation Army)
	6.00 pm	Prayer before the Blessed Sacrament
Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	<b>Lectio divina</b>
<b>Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>		<b>Lent 3</b>
	<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>12noon</b>	<b>Baptism</b>
	<b>2.30 pm</b>	<b>Confirmation Rehearsal</b>
	<b>4.00 pm</b>	<b>Baptisms</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Said Evening Prayer</b>
<b>Mon 9<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	Toddler Time
	2.00 pm	Standing Committee (Vicarage)
<b>Wed 11<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	2.00 pm	Service at Beech House
	7.00 pm	Confirmation
Thurs 12 <sup>th</sup>	2.00 pm	Service at Eagle House
Sat 14 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	<b>Lectio divina</b>
<b>Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>		<b>Mothering Sunday/Lent 4</b>
	<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Family Eucharist with St. peter's School</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Sung Evensong</b>
<b>Mon 16<sup>th</sup></b>	9.30 am	Toddler Time
	9.30 am	Deanery Chapter (Barton)
	Home	<b>Communions</b> this week
<b>Tues 17<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
<b>Wed 18<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	2.00 pm	Mothers' Union quiet afternoon
	10.15 am	St. Peter's and Wootton Schools' service.
	2.00 pm	Service at Westbridge House
	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group meeting
<b>Thurs 19<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>Joseph of Nazareth Said Eucharist</b>
Fri 20 <sup>th</sup>	Parish	News Deadline
Sat 21 <sup>st</sup>	<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	11.00 am	Lectio divina
<b>Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> Mar</b>		<b>Lent 5</b>
	<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>11.30 am</b>	<b>Baptisms</b>
	<b>6.00 pm</b>	<b>Said Eucharist with hymns</b>
<b>Mon 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	9.30 am	Toddler Time
	<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Eucharist and PCC</b>
<b>Wed 25<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Annunciation Said Eucharist</b>
Sat 28 <sup>th</sup>	11.00 am	<b>Lectio divina</b>
<b>Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> Mar</b>		<b>Palm Sunday</b>
	<b>8.00 am</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Start at St. Peter's at 9.20 am Parish Eucharist</b>
	<b>2.30 pm</b>	<b>Service at The Willows</b>
	<b>7.30 pm</b>	<b>New County Choral Society</b>
<b>Mon 30<sup>th</sup></b>	<b>9.00 am</b>	<b>Holy Week Said Eucharist</b>
	9.30 am	Toddler Time
<b>Tues 31<sup>st</sup></b>	9.00 am	Church Spring Cleaning
	<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Said Eucharist</b>
<b>Wed 1<sup>st</sup> April</b>	<b>9.30 am</b>	<b>Said Eucharist (MU Corp)</b>
<b>Thurs 2nd</b>	<b>7.00 pm</b>	<b>Maundy Sung Eucharist and Watch at the Cross Thursday</b>