



The Wardens' Wire

THE WARDENS' WIRE ISSUE 5

EVENTS; EASTER WEEK April 2- 9

Sun Apr, 2 (Palm Sunday)

10 am Morning prayer service
2 pm Hoi Thanh Tin Lanh service

Mon Apr 3

9.30-11.30 am Craft Circle
1.30 – 3 pm Friendship group
7.30- 9 pm Hamilton Schola Cantora practice

Thurs Apr 6 (Maundy Thursday)

5.30 – 6.45 pm Pot luck supper prior to
7.00 – 8 pm Holy Communion

Fri Apr 7 (Good Friday)

10.30 am Morning Prayer Service

Sunday April 9 **EASTER SUNDAY**

10.30 am Holy Eucharist
2.00 pm Hoi Thanh Tin Lanh service

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To all those who cannot be with us in person during this most Holy of weeks, please know we think of you and remember with love the times we shared over the years. Your pew seat is still warm, and you are welcome at any time.

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Thank you to all who have contributed to the Easter collection of bunny bags for Crossfire. The cheery yellow shopping bags will be taken to Crossfire shortly after the Easter week. Your enthusiasm and care for those in need is most appreciated.

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Quiet day

With thanks to Jo-Anne Nicholas-Ray for her idea we set aside Saturday, March 25 for Quiet Day in order to be more keenly observant of the beauty of the Collects in the Prayer Book. It seemed especially important during this season of Lent.

A Service of Morning Prayer introduced the day and it closed with Evening Prayer.

After coffee break Dr Tom Power led with a thoughtful lecture about Thomas Cranmer's life. Cranmer was a martyr for the preservation of our faith and it is to Cranmer we give thanks for the Prayer Book. Tom followed the lecture with a challenge to write our own prayer based on the formula that Cranmer developed for the Collects.

The 5 categories of the Collects are: Address (to whom are we praying?), Acknowledgement (a small definition of who God is to us), Petition (for what are we asking?), Aspiration/Reason (what is our resultant hope from our prayer?) Pleading (we ask Him to answer our request if it is within His Will.)

Tom further pointed out that there is only one request per prayer.

I followed this analysis on Sunday last to see if it carried through. It did. It made the Collects more potent and alive to me even though I've been saying them every Sunday for 45 years. It has taught me a new way to think about how I pray. No more for me the long rattling lists of God Bless so-and-so and so-and so and don't forget the such-and-such as those prayers often morph into "I wonder if I have enough gas in the car?" I am not making light of it. I'm being honest. I've heard others say the same thing. This lesson on the five attributes has brought me to better focus.

Thank you too to Dr William Renwick for his always beautiful music. Wonderful music and wonderful words belong together.

We enjoyed a *very good* coffee break followed by a *very good* St. George's Lunch. There was lots of laughter and we were happy to meet some new friends from Sarnia too. Altogether we were thirty-eight people. We will do it again.

~ Judy

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You may wish to write your own 'collect', and include in the next newsletter...or not! Or



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check out the Book of Common Prayer and tell us which one speaks to your heart .

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THE FIXER

At a seminar, many years ago, the instructor shared this story. He had found the perfect real estate deal. The property was perfect in size and location to house his growing bible ministry. The only problem, of course, was money. So he prayed for God's provision, then he began to fix the problem.

He knew of some people who had the money but they did not know about this fantastic opportunity. As he was preparing to make the necessary phone calls, God suddenly answered his prayer with these words."You keep your grubby little hands off of this".

This bible teacher knew enough to cancel his plan and get out of the way. He watched from the sidelines as God made amazing things happen. Problem solved.

As a "fixer of things" I find great satisfaction in helping others to solve their problems. However I have often found that it is the work of God the bring people through their struggles as he teaches them to fix their own stuff. That is when I am just in the way. So before I fix anything I always ask God to show me the way. Though I don't always know the fix, I do know who the Fixer and it has been an amazing journey to watch Him at work.

Alan Powell

Thanks Alan for these powerful thoughts ...we are so glad you are now at St George's and are able to make good use your wonderful fix-it skills

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C Austin Miles, 1868-1946. A Philadelphia pharmacist abandoned his career in 1892 and wrote his first gospel song; he went on to write numerous poems/hymns. "It is as a writer of gospel songs I am proud to be known, for in that way I may be of the most use to my Master, whom I serve willingly although not as efficiently as is my desire".

This inspirational hymn, loved by many, but not all, was written in March 1912, he says as he read John 20- 1-18 with "hands resting on the Bible he stared at the light blue wall. As the light faded I seemed to be standing at the entrance of a garden, looking down at a gently winding path, shaded by olive branches". He describes the arrival of Mary, Peter and John as they gathered at the tomb, followed by the appearance of Jesus. He continues, "I awakened in full light, gripping the Bible, with muscles tense and nerves vibrating. Under the inspiration of this vision I wrote as quickly as the words could be formed the poem exactly as it has appeared".

1 I come to the garden alone,
While the dew is still on the roses;
And the voice I hear, falling on my ear,
The Son of God discloses.

Refrain:
And He walks with me, and He talks with me,
And He tells me I am His own,
And the joy we share as we tarry there,
None other has ever known.

2 He speaks, and the sound of His voice
Is so sweet the birds hush their singing;
And the melody that He gave to me
Within my heart is ringing. [Refrain]

3 I'd stay in the garden with Him
Tho' the night around me be falling;
But He bids me go; thro' the voice of woe,
His voice to me is calling. [Refrain]

Alison

HoNING IN ON HYMNS...

I COME TO THE GARDEN ALONE ..