

THE

PARISHIONER





St Mary's Parish Church

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PASTORAL LETTER . . .

Hello everyone,

Every year there are new crazes that appear and I have found myself gripped by one of them: Wordle!

For those who have not heard of or played it, Wordle is a free, online game that can be played daily on a computer or smartphone. The concept is very simple, you have 24 hours to guess a five-letter word in six attempts or less. Some on Facebook have taken to posting their efforts, especially when they have managed to guess the word quickly. A google search reveals that there are lots of hints and tips for success, not least the best words to start with and that got me thinking.

As we leave January and the message of the angels – not least those fabulous origami angels in the chancel area! – becomes but an echo, so we must remember the Word that they spoke about, the good news that they brought, was not just for Christmas but always. It was not just for some people but for all. It is the Word that John speaks about in his gospel:

In the beginning the Word already existed. The Word was with God, and the Word was God. He existed in the beginning with God. God created everything through him, and nothing was created except through him. The Word gave life to everything that was created and his life brought light to everyone. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness can never extinguish it (John 1.1-5).

That Word is the one who came into the world, moved into the neighbourhood, to show us just how much God loves us and to remind us that God is faithful and always with us. He is the Word that does not promise us sunshine and rainbows every day, but he does promise that through the showers and the storms of life he will be there and invites us into God's story to participate in God's mission, that we might be bearers of the good news, and not just hearers.

It seems to me that amidst the crazes and the chaos of the world, starting with the best five letter word I know – **Jesus** – is a pretty good place to start and puzzling over his words, might prove more fulfilling and satisfying than any online game. For taking some time every day to be still, to turn to God's Word, and encounter the living Word, is a great thing to do. It helps us to grow closer to Jesus and become more and more the people that God calls and needs us to be and, as so many of you know, it will sustain and nourish you, long after one online craze has been replaced by another. For unlike a Wordle, Jesus, is the same yesterday, today and forever. So, why not reach for the Word, open it up and give it a go?

With love and blessings Ruth

PARISH REGISTER

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

MRS JESSIE MCLACHLAN formerly of Abbeyfield is now resident in Buchanan House Care Home, Bearsden.

Christmas Card Delivery

This year the sum raised was £1024.10 which is going to Church funds.

With sincere thanks to Ruth Poynton for all the hard work she put in; collecting, sorting and delivering the cards to all those, who in turn, delivered them around the various districts.

Thank you also to Stewart Walker Newsagent for accepting cards this year.

Why you should do housework

Now here is a great reason to do some housework: older people who regularly do household chores have better memory and attention spans than those who avoid domestic duties. Not only that, but housework is linked to superior leg strength in people over 65. That means their risk of a fall is reduced.

The study, published in BMJ Open, found that a combination of light housework, such as washing up, dusting, making the bed, hanging out laundry, ironing and cooking – and heavy housework, such as window cleaning, changing bedding, vacuuming, washing the floor, and chores involving sawing, repairing or painting, “was associated with higher cognitive function” among older people, who showed up to 14 per cent higher attention span scores than older people who did not do housework.



CHURCH FLOWERS

We can now display and deliver church flowers once again - their presence has been missed. We have, however, agreed to some changes in the way we do things. For the next few months, we will only have four arrangements in church each week (or four vases of flowers). The flower arrangers on duty each week will also deliver them. Recipients will be contacted each week to check if they are happy to receive flowers, which will be delivered following Covid guidelines. Thank you for continued donations. Please know we continue to think about and pray for all those who would benefit from church flowers.

In order that folks can receive flowers, e.g. illness, bereavement, special anniversaries and those who have attained the age of 80, will you please let any of us know. There are probably a few who have reached the latter over the last 2 years and it would be good to know who they are – if they wish their age known!!

***Fiona Leishman, Sandra Burns, Ruth Poynton, Elizabeth Walker
The Flower Committee***



Copy for the March Parishioner should be e-mailed to sandraburns.me@gmail.com **no later than Sunday 27 February**. If there are any changes to our current situation prior to this date, further information will be issued accordingly. With continued thanks to those who make donations towards the cost of producing the magazine.

Church Office

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, the Church office remains closed at present. Telephone number is 0141 775 1166 or e-mail: office.stmarys@btconnect.com

The Parishioner Online

www.stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk

Missed or lost your copy of the Parishioner . . .

why not go to www.stmaryskirkintilloch@btinternet.com and see this month's copy. Stephen McKean, Webmaster, has built up previous issues online so you can look back on past copies.

Also if you wish any news or information to be put on the website please e-mail webmaster@stmaryskirkintilloch.org.uk and we will put these on the News page of the Website.



Life and Work

The annual subscription for 'Life and Work' for this year is £36.00 for 12 issues and is now due. Single copies are £3.00 each. If you do not already take this magazine and are interested in doing so, please contact Sandra Burns. The content of this Church of Scotland Magazine is very varied, including a letters page, feature articles by various people and church news from around the country to name but a few.

Why not give it a go – even if it is only one issue – we're sure you will then wish to subscribe.



BELL RINGERS

We are pleased to intimate that the bells will continue to be rung until further notice by Leslie Bevens.

Nursery Update



It was good to be able to re-open the nursery in January following the Christmas break.

Following increases in Covid cases in the community prior to Christmas, it was agreed that our Nativity concerts would be held outside in the carpark. Despite the rain on the first afternoon, feedback from parents was excellent and they appreciated the opportunity to attend (I think the hot chocolate went down well too!). Santa also visited the children in the carpark.

January's letter of the month was B which kept the children busy both indoors and outdoors. Burns' Day was celebrated at the end of the month and the children have also taken part in The Big Bird Watch. This has included trying to spot the pair of falcons which have been visiting the church. This term we are allowing the children to mix together when playing outdoors. This has allowed them to develop new friendships with children in other bubbles as well as enjoying some sunny January weather!

Fiona Leishman, Nursery Convener

Session Report

The first Session Meeting of the New Year took place on Wednesday 12th January – once again, meeting virtually, on a Zoom call.

During 2022, we hope to settle into the normal pattern of meetings, approximately once every couple of months and it is hoped that if things continue to improve, it will not be too long until we are once again able to meet in person.

After celebrating communion at the end of November last year, it was decided that we should recommence our normal practice of celebrating communion in March, May, September and November. This is a celebration that has been greatly missed during the pandemic, but while the practical arrangements are very different to “pre-covid” times, we very much look forward to regularly being able to share in this sacrament together.

Another topic of discussion over the last few months has been the reintroduction of our Sunday morning duty groups. Since the Church reopened for worship, following the first lockdown in 2020, the reopening group, led by John Pears, has been responsible for arrangements on a Sunday morning. The group has been supported by a very willing team of volunteers on duty to welcome us to worship each week and ensure that we are keeping ourselves and each other safe.

At our Session Meeting last month, it was agreed that from February, these duties would once again be picked up by our four duty groups.

My sincere thanks go to John and his team for their hard work and commitment over the last eighteen months. Meeting for worship on a Sunday morning has only been possible through their hard work and dedication – it is very much appreciated.

After a great many years of faithful service as duty group leaders, John Marran and Mary Stirling have reluctantly decided that this is the right time for them to stand down from their roles. It is with heartfelt thanks and gratitude that we acknowledge their hard work and dedication to St Mary's. And my thanks also to go Sally McLellan and Garry Burns, who will take up the role of group leader from John & Mary.

Finally, I am very grateful to everyone that responded positively to our request for new congregational helpers. At the time of going to print, we had at least seventeen names to add to our Sunday morning duty groups. Thank you!

Gordon Morrison, Session Clerk

Communion

You are all invited to the Sacrament of Holy Communion which will be celebrated on Sunday 6th March. In view of current guidelines, we will be using the little Friendship Cups.

Spring has sprung and The Social Committee is waking up

Now the country is beginning to get back to some kind of normality, the Social Committee is also waking up. We have plans for the future and are just waiting for the go-head from whomever can say it is OK to do so. Easter is not far away and following on from that are the Jubilee Celebrations. At the moment it is just a case of watch this space, but future does look exciting and perhaps our two years of hibernation is finally over.

Christian Aid: Afghanisan Crisis Appeal

A retiral collection was held in church on Sunday 23rd January raising the excellent sum of £587. Sincere thanks to everyone who contributed to this appeal. The Afghanistan crisis is one of the worst humanitarian disasters since the end of the second world war.

People are starving in Afghanistan with more than 8 million people on the brink of famine.

Christian Aid's partners are on the ground scaling up their operations and are able to reach the people most in need. With your support Christian Aid and their local partners can help by:

- Provide emergency food and nutrition for children
- Provide health care facilities
- Provide winter kits to help displaced families stay warm
- Supply clean drinking water

Since the Appeal was launched in December 2021 Christian Aid and its partners have reached people with food, nutrition and hygiene kits as part of the Disasters Emergency Committee response.

Christmas in St Mary's

Many, many thanks to everyone involved in the origami angels, drew round your hands, knitted crackers and provided teabags (for a surprise item) all to enhance the church over the festive period. Photographs all have the required permission.





Treasurer's Report

Thank you all for your continued support and giving.

Some recent receipts I wish to mention:

- Donation to Parishioner from Arthur Main £12
- Other Donations to Parishioner totaling £60
- Donation to Fabric Fund £20
- Donations to General Funds £20, £20, £50, £250, and £200
- Gift Service and Nominated Charity Monetary Donations £2,192
- Christmas Card Delivery Donation proceeds to Church Funds £1,024.10
- Christian Aid Emergency Appeal Retiring Offering £577

Gift Service and Nominated Charities:

Over and above the gifts that were generously donated and distributed on our Gift Service Sunday we received a whopping total of £2,192 in monetary donations.

Broken down this would be Gift Service; we distributed £960 before Christmas to be valuable and of use for Christmas; £360 to EDC Social Work, and £300 each to Lodging House Mission Glasgow and St Rollox Community Outreach Project.

Secondly our chosen Nominated Charities: Seagull Trust £459 and Samaritans £773 in donations. I have now distributed these amounts to these organisations.

Thank you to all that were able to be involved and donated to this.

End of Year Accounts and Offering Giving

Our financial year has once again come to an end, and we have been working to prepare our accounts in the statutory format as required by The Church of Scotland and OSCR. My thanks to Hugh Biggans for all the time he spends in preparing these. We are almost complete, thereafter they will be presented for approval at Kirk Session; then accounts, along with all my financial records and evidence gathered, will go to our appointed Independent Examiner for verification and signing off. At some point further down the process you will be able to view these accounts as they will be brought for noting at our Stated Annual Meeting.

For the moment I just felt that I wished to mention I am encouraged by the support that the Congregation have offered. Although not quite complete, I am pleased to see a healthy set of accounts for 2021 and can say that our total offerings received in the year are up based on comparison to the previous few years. This has only been possible with your continued support for which I am

grateful. I am amazed and encouraged by this especially while we are still amid the Pandemic and not back to normal operations and practice. **Thank you.**

Ministries and Mission Requirements and Glasgow Presbytery Dues for 2022

I reported to members of our Kirk Session at the January meeting that I had received notification of our requirements for 2022 to The Church of Scotland and to divisional administration The Presbytery of Glasgow. Our Ministries and Mission requirements for this year amount to £70,484. This is 12% up on last year - an extra £7,066 to find. This £70,484 we will pay in 10 instalments February to November inclusive.

Presbytery Dues for 2022 are £3,959 calculated and based on our average income over the 3 years 2018-2020. Up £67 on last year a 1.72% increase. These are payable in 2 instalments by 31st March and by 30th June.

Change of contact telephone number

In case you missed this last month:

Please note the new telephone number to contact me:

Home Telephone Number 0141 239 2611

John Thomson, Treasurer

A Prayer at Candlemas

Dear Lord God,

February can be a difficult, cold month, and this year there is much to be concerned about, with the pandemic still affecting our lives in so many ways. But thank you, Lord, that February can also be a month of wonderful signs of hope.

Help us, when we look down, to see the snowdrops – sometimes known as Candlemas Bells – and other bulbs pushing through the dark earth, showing the promise of Spring and brighter days ahead.

And then, help us to look up, to see the light of Jesus, Your revelation to all the world, in that baby who grew and died and rose again to offer salvation, hope and life to all who put their trust in Him.

Thank you, Father, for Jesus and that, because of Him, nothing – no pandemic, no circumstance – can ever separate us from You.

Thank you for Your Holy Spirit, living in all who trust in You, giving us strength for each new day of this and every month.

In Jesus name, Amen.

By Daphne Kitching

Working Together . . .

We have plans for a few projects this year and need your help please. We are starting with a couple of things...

Can you knit or crochet?

We are looking for people who can knit or crochet poppies in either red or white (we need loads of white please!). I have attached a couple of patterns at the end of this article but feel free to use your own.

All poppies should be submitted throughout the coming months to allow the craft group to create with them but should be returned no later than **Sunday 4th September**.

Can you sew?

We are looking to create some colourful bunting to use during the Queen's Jubilee weekend. It would be great if you can sew a triangular flag or two to help us. Any colour of fabric can be used; plain, patterned or even decorated to reflect the occasion!

Each triangle should measure 21cm (approx. 8 ins) at its base and be 29cm (11.5 ins) in height. Again, flags can be submitted as you sew them but no later than Sunday 1st May.

Do you have spare black buttons lurking in your button box?

We need some black buttons to use as centres for our red poppies. Buttons should be 2 – 3cm in size (approx. 1in). If you have any, please pop them into the box in the church vestibule and our knitters can help themselves and use them to finish

their poppies.

Knitting Pattern (red or white poppy)

Use double knitting wool and size 9 needles.

Cast on 120 stitches.

Rows 1-4 Knit

Row 5 Knit 3 stitches together across the row (40 stitches)

Rows 6-9 Knit

Row 10 Knit 2 together across the row (20 stitches)

Rows 11-14 Knit

Row 15 Knit 2 together across the row (10 stitches)

Cut wool leaving a tail. Thread tail through remaining stitches and pull tight. Pull around into a circle and stitch seams together.

White poppy is now complete.

Red poppies should have a black button centre or using black wool cast on 16 stitches. Cast off. Coil into a tight spiral and sew to centre of poppy.

Crochet pattern (red or white wool)
Using a 3mm needle make a crochet magic loop with black wool. For white poppies, use white throughout.

Round 1 (RS) Ch1 (does not count as st throughout), 8dc into loop, ss to first dc. [8 sts]

Round 2 Ch1, 2dc in each st around, ss to first dc. Fasten off. [16 sts]

Round 3 Join red into any st, ch1,

working in back loop only of next 5 sts of prev rnd: dc in next st, htr in next st, tr in next st, 2dtr in next st, 2ttr in next st. Now working in both loops for next 4 sts: (2ttr in next st) 4 times. Working in back loop only for rem sts of this rnd: 2ttr in next st, placing a marker in the base of this st, 2dtr in next st, tr in next st, htr in next st, dc in next st. Fasten off, leaving rem sts unworked. [22 sts]

loop of marked st. Ch1, working in rem front loops of next 5 sts, in front of petal already worked: dc in marked st, htr in next st, tr in next st, 2dtr in next st, 2ttr in next st. Working in both loops of next 2 sts: (2ttr in next st) twice. Working in rem front loops for rest of rnd: 2ttr in next st, 2dtr in next st, tr in next st, htr in next st, dc in next st.

Fasten off and weave in ends.

Round 4 Rejoin red in rem front

Happy crafting!

God so loved the World

‘For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life.’ (John 3:16)

This month, as we mark St Valentines’ Day, we focus on the importance of love. In understanding the way God loves us, this verse shows us how we should love others. *God’s love is unconditional:* God demonstrated His unconditional love for us by sending His Son into this world, to show us how we should love others, especially when it is undeserved! *‘There is nothing we can do to make God love us more. There is nothing we can do to make God love us less.’* (Philip Yancey).

God’s love is sacrificial: God’s love is not selfish or self-seeking, but selfless and self-sacrificial, putting the needs of others first. This is demonstrated by the cross, which is the supreme demonstration of God’s love. He died for our sins to give us access to God’s love, which is made real in our lives by the Holy Spirit.

God’s love is forgiving: According to the film Love Story, ‘Love means never having to say you’re sorry.’ Yet Jesus’ love for us enables us to forgive others, as we find His forgiveness through the gift of eternal life, available to all who put their trust in Him.

In this World Cup Year, we remember Bobby Moore describing the terror of receiving the World Cup from the Queen in 1966: *“I noticed that the Queen was wearing some beautiful white gloves. I looked down at my hands and they were completely covered with mud!”*

Although we approach God with dirty and spoilt lives, because of His love, we can shake hands with a holy God and share that love with others.

Young Church – Dates

Shrove Tuesday/Pancake Day – 1st March

Ash Wednesday – 2nd March

We would love to see pictures of your pancakes.

These can be posted on the church Facebook page or emailed to:

stmarys.youngchurch@gmail.com



St Valentine

We know very little for certain about the historical St. Valentine, but these three things are undisputed: That he was a bishop or a priest, that he lived under the 3rd century Roman persecution, and that he was martyred for being a bold witness of God's unfailing love. All the rest is legend, but they are good ones at that! Here are the two most

popular stories explaining Valentine's association with what we now celebrate as Valentine's Day:

As a bishop, St. Valentine secretly performed Christian weddings against the order of the pagan Roman emperor, which is how Valentine's Day became associated with love.

Another legend claims that after refusing to sacrifice to pagan gods, Valentine was imprisoned. While behind bars, Valentine healed the jailer's daughter of her blindness. On his execution day, he wrote the girl a note signing it, "Your Valentine."

While these stories may not be completely true, the important part is that it helps us to learn what love is and that it comes in many different forms.

The Bible tells us that love is from God and that God is love. The great thing about God's love is that it's not a feeling to him, he can't fall out of love with us. He loves us even when we're not loveable and when we're grumpy. He loves all of us no matter what. The tricky bit is loving others as God loves us.

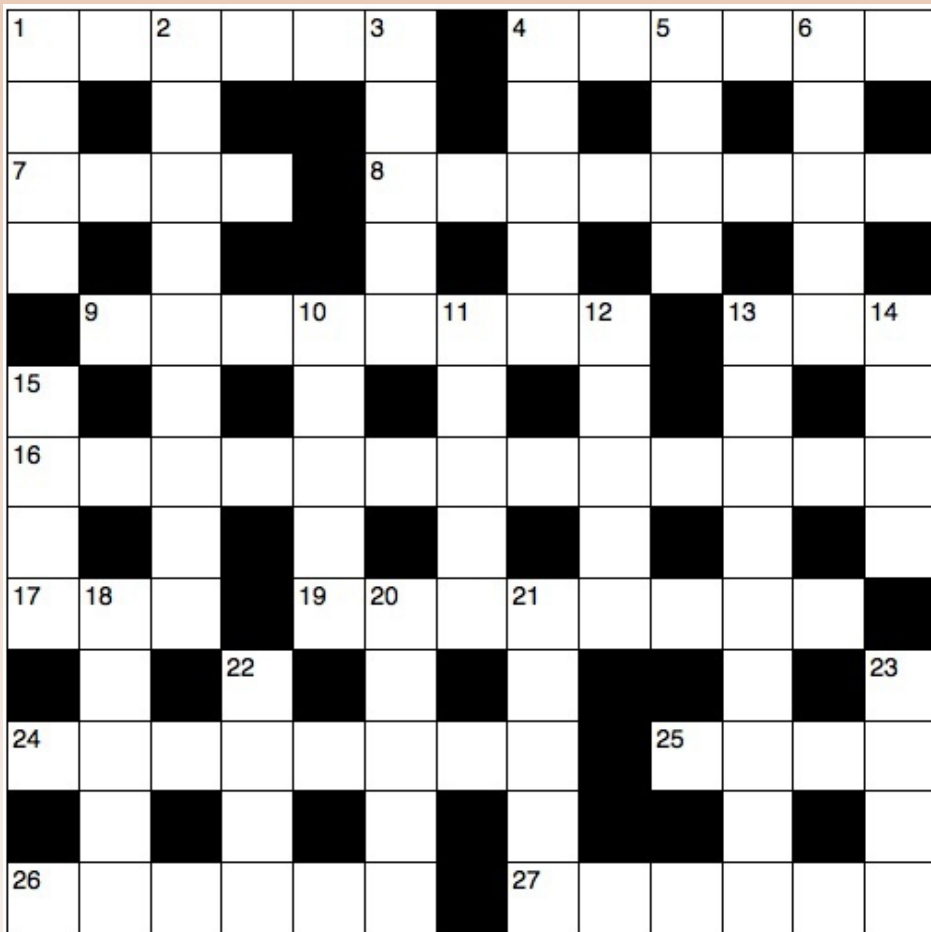
It's easy to love friends and family but how do we love our neighbours? Love can be shown through actions. Helping someone with their groceries, returning a wallet found on the street, or even praying for people on the news that are in trouble, are just a few ways to love our neighbours.

In Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, he says:

"Love is patient, love is kind. Love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way, it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things" 1 COR 13:4-7

Learning to love like God takes a long time and takes God's help. It's easier to love than to hate, so have lots of fun learning to love God and everyone around you!

Crossword



Across

- 1 'If you love those who love you,
what — is that to you?' (Luke
6:32) (6)
- 4 'They threw the ship's —
overboard' (Acts 27:19) (6)
- 7 The first murderer (Genesis
4:8) (4)
- 8 He was the head Levite in

- charge of the singing when the ark of God was brought back to Jerusalem (1 Chronicles 15:22) (8)
- 9 Samson was noted for this (Judges 16:6) (8)
- 13 Solicit money or food from passers by (Acts 3:2) (3)
- 16 What William Booth's Christian

- Mission became in 1878 (9,4)
- 17 Alliance of Religions and Conservation (1,1,1)
- 19 'I will praise your name for ever and ever. — I will praise you' (Psalm 145:1-2) (5,3)
- 24 Simon had (anag.) (8)
- 25 Desperate (Deuteronomy 28:48) (4)
- 26 Elisha witnessed the boy he was seeking to resuscitate do this seven times before opening his eyes (2 Kings 4:35) (6)
- 27 The belly and thighs of the statue in Nebuchadnezzar's dream were made of this (Daniel 2:32) (6)

Down

- 1 'Before the — crows, you will disown me three times' (Matthew 26:75) (4)
- 2 Relating to the books of the Bible between Acts and Revelation (9)
- 3 'They have — the Lord out of the tomb, and we don't know where they have put him!' (John 20:2) (5)
- 4 Belief (5)
- 5 'Take the following fine spices: ... 250 shekels of fragrant — ' (Exodus 30:23) (4)
- 6 'Do not — Jerusalem, but wait for the gift' (Acts 1:4) (5)
- 10 A seer (anag.) (5)
- 11 'Even there your hand will — me' (Psalm 139:10) (5)
- 12 The wild variety was part of John the Baptist's diet (Mark 1:6) (5)
- 13 A non-Greek speaker who was looked down on by civilized people (Colossians 3:11) (9)
- 14 Famous 1950s musical whose characters included members of
- 16 Across, — and Dolls (4)
- 15 The province from which Paul wrote to the Corinthians (1 Corinthians 16:19) (4)
- 18 'He was standing in the gateway with a linen cord and a measuring — — his hand' (Ezekiel 40:3) (3,2)
- 20 'Today, if you hear his — , do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion' (Hebrews 3:15) (5)
- 21 The Jericho prostitute who hid two Israelite spies on the roof of her house (Hebrews 11:31) (5)
- 22 'And now these three remain: faith, — and love. But the greatest of these is love' (1 Corinthians 13:13) (4)
- 23 'God has numbered the days of your reign and brought it to an end' (Daniel 5:26) (4)



The Rectory

St James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

I am glad you enjoyed your conference, but please do not be deluded into thinking that conferences are there to teach you anything. Conferences exist to provide another entry on your CV, to give you time off while flattering yourself that you are working, and to make the person leading it feel that their life is not wholly pointless. As it happened, I was also invited to the same one, the one entitled 'Learning how to say no.' But I refused to attend, thereby proving that I didn't need it anyway.

There are certain useful points you need to learn for conferences. First, about half the attendees will have been together only the previous week attending another conference in another part of the country. They will be eager, enthusiastic, and overflowing with management platitudes. Avoid them at all costs. Should one of them say to you: 'expect the unexpected' you have my permission to strangle them. They won't have expected that!

Secondly, when you are all asked to go through that ghastly process of introducing yourselves to everyone else, make it up. I think the last time I was obliged to do this I became a butcher specialising in exporting offal to Saudi Arabia. All your clerical colleagues will then panic that they have turned up for the wrong course and the leader will make sure that you are not asked

another single question throughout the event. Both outcomes are satisfying.

Thirdly, do realise that when you are asked to divide into small discussion groups, it means that the conference leader has run out of ideas about what to do next. Do not, at all costs, volunteer to be chairman. It only means that when you report back – and if the leaders use the word 'plenary', then by all means contemplate strangling them also – you will be involved in sticking sheets of paper on to walls, which will then rip off the wallpaper when you try to remove them.

You will also have the embarrassment of finding that every felt tip pen you try to use will be empty, and what you thought were the conclusions your group had arrived at will be volubly contradicted by all the other members.

Now, if you are ever obliged to attend another course, take a good book, enough claret to cover every evening away, and develop a debilitating illness that, while enabling you to attend every meal, obliges you to retreat to your room for the rest of the day. You will leave having learned as much on whatever the topic was as your colleagues, but you will return refreshed and eager to make the next booking.

Your loving uncle, Eustace



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