

Dear Friends,

As I was preparing to write this month's letter, I looked through my office window and saw blooming vegetable plants in my garden and greenhouse. It reminds me of the name of the month of June in my local dialect which is "Obiradzi" and has a literal meaning of "Suffer to gain". June is a month where farmers had to sacrifice harvest from the previous years and plant on the land. They also had to do most of the hard work in June - weeding, ploughing, and planting. That was the month when hardworking farmers sacrificed their lifestyles in order to invest in the land and eventually in their family's future. It called for the use of lots of determination and energy as in all other jobs.

Talking of energy brings me to the subject of God's power for us. Knowing that the work he has called us to do on earth involves sacrifice, planning and determination, he has not left us to wallow in frustrations and disappointments. He has provided his Spirit, whom we call the Holy Spirit, to be with us. Christians believe that the Holy Spirit descended unto Jesus' Apostles on the day of Pentecost, seven weeks after Jesus had risen from the dead (Easter Day). He has made his Spirit available to us if only we will depend on him.

As we celebrate Pentecost in June this year, I will request you to consider appropriating God's Spirit in you life. Think about asking God to help you with his Spirit in the things that you want to do to help yourself and humankind in general. Yes, you need the power of God to live a good life and help other people as well. The Apostle Paul had said in the book of Romans that the Spirit helps us in our weaknesses. You can ask him to come into your life by praying to God now. Have a wonderful summer time.

God bless you.

Frank

THIS AND THAT

*Thank You Thank You
Thank You Thank You*

"Recently, when I was not well and in hospital, many friends sent me get well cards and wishes. I am now at home and would like to pass on my sincere thanks for your kind thoughts.

from

Cath King

EXHIBITION & SALE OF ART & POTTERY

by 'Arts 64'

Saturday 18th June

10am - 4pm

St. John's Church, Cadeby

Refreshments available in
conjunction with
CCT Midsummer Tea
Party Event.

Mothers' UNION

Christian care for families

St Mary's Sprotbrough

Deanery Event

Monday 13th June at 7pm in
St Mary's Church.

"Songs of Praise".

Come and enjoy a good sing.
All welcome

Mothers' Union Open Meeting

Monday 20th June at 7:30 pm in
The Stable, Main Street.

We're making **"Bags of
Difference"** with speaker Chris
Mitchell and supporting
Ugandan families.

Refreshments £1 - do join us!

Art in the Garden

*An exhibition and demonstration
of work by two local artists*

Sheila Bury & Terry Chipp

in the garden of

**The Toll House, Boat Lane
Sprotbrough.**

*Entrance to the garden from
Nursery Lane (next to the
water-bus car park)*

Monday 30th May 12pm to 7pm

*Sheila's paintings celebrate the
seasonal changes in the valley and
village, and Terry will be showing a
mixture of subjects from landscape
to abstract. All work for sale*

Everybody Welcome Free Entrance

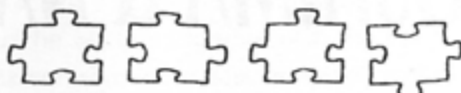
Do you like puzzles?

The Church Hall will be full of puzzles on 25 June

...Including

Quizzes • Free Children's Corner

**The
Children's
Society**



**A Puzzling Coffee
Morning**

At St Mary's Church Hall

**Saturday 25 June 2011
at 10am to noon**

Tickets: £1 (children free)

The proceeds will be donated to
The Children's Society Charity No 221124

...Plus coffee and the stalls you would expect

Cakes • Preserves • Pickles • Plant • Raffle

Don't miss the chance to come! Tickets from Victor Hext (834467)

...Or guess who else?



**67th Sprotbrough Scout Annual
Road Race and Family Gala**

SUNDAY 17TH JULY

Starting at 1.00pm. Road Race to start 2.00pm

Entries for the road race available prior to the event at the post office,
via our web site www.sprotbroughscouts.co.uk
or tel: 788822. Entries are accepted on the day.

*Please come along for a 'family fun filled afternoon' with many
attractions and side shows to support our local scout group. Anyone
who wishes to have a stall, please contact Janet Graves, 853932*

HIROSHIMA & NAGASAKI REVISITED

In the summer of 2010, the 65th anniversary of the first atomic bombs, we were in Hiroshima where my husband was a Visiting Professor.

Hiroshima is now a spacious, modern city. But we couldn't pass the Atomic Bomb Dome – the only building to survive the blast - without imagining the horrors of 1945. The hospital for radiation victims still receives patients. Many of the older people we saw around the city had experienced the devastation.

We also visited Nagasaki. Whilst Hiroshima is a tourist hub, Nagasaki has few international visitors. Yet for centuries, it was Japan's main point of contact with the outside world. Portuguese missions introduced Christianity in the 16th century. It spread rapidly. Japan was then ruled by a tyrannical Shogun dictator, who feared Christianity's challenge. He banned it, forcing all Japanese to enlist with a local Buddhist Temple, and walk on brass plaques with images of Jesus and the Virgin Mary. 26 missionaries and converts from across Japan were arrested, taken in a public procession to Nagasaki and crucified.



HIROSHIMA Atomic bomb dome and peace cranes



NAGASAKI Remains of cathedral and A-bomb hypocentre

Rewards encouraged informers to identify Christians and villages that hid them were slaughtered. Foreigners were banned from Japan for 200 years, except for

small walled-off docks in Nagasaki for Chinese and Dutch merchants. In the 1850s, a US gunboat forced Japan to re-open its borders.

A foreign settlement grew up in Nagasaki, led by British traders who brought in modern weaponry and helped Japan establish its world-class navy. When a church was built, Japanese underground Christians came to worship there. They were still in existence after 200 years of intense persecution.

Christianity grew again. It is still only a minor religion, but has had a big impact on education. Japan's first Minister of Education was a Christian, and Christian missions established the first girls' schools.

A cathedral was built in Nagasaki in memory of the Martyrs, the biggest and grandest in East Asia. Then on the morning of August 9th, 1945, another technological gift from the West was dropped on the cathedral.

Of course, there have been many changes since then. One Japanese friend said she would hate to live in a warmongering country. She was referring to England.

*Gwyneth Swift,
Sprotbrough*

The Revd Tony Sophianou - A brief pen picture

A Londoner by birth, Tony was ordained priest in Canterbury in 1989 after a long career in journalism, press and public relations and marketing, latterly as a director of a small agency in London's West End. Before coming to Sprotbrough, he served as Vicar of Goole, and previously in Doncaster (Wheatley Park), and Stevenage, Herfordshire, where he had a major involvement with areas of poverty and other social problems. For four years he worked together with the Local Authority, NHS and other agencies to address some of these issues, which included establishing strategies to improve generally the physical and social infrastructures. He was also a founding Trustee of *The Living Room*, a Christian charity dedicated to helping people overcome addictions of all kinds.

He is currently one of the Bishop of Sheffield's Advisers on Urban Matters, an adviser to the Bishop of Doncaster on inter-faith matters, a Member of the Diocese of Sheffield Board of Faith & Justice and of the Diocesan Church Urban Fund Grants Panel, as well as a Trustee of St Agatha's Community Kickstart Fund.

Within the Goole community he was amongst other things, President of the Goole Christian Mariners' Association and a Trustee of two local charities. Previously in Doncaster he had been a Workplace Chaplain, Volunteer Chaplain at Doncaster Royal Infirmary, school governor, member of various community groups and the South Yorkshire Coalfield Partnership Board. He was a founding member and first chair of the Doncaster Multi-faith Strategic Group and an Independent Assessor of CLAY (Changing Lives Among Youth).

Tony is particularly concerned to help individuals who feel unable to deal with, or consider themselves unjustly compromised by, social systems, be they political or otherwise, and any issues which alienate individuals or groups.

Tony is married to Pauline and they have five children - Demetri, Alexi, Andrew, Kathryn and Helen - and there are now seven grandchildren, with another on the way. For the past eleven years, he and Pauline had fostered a severely disabled child, Barry (now almost 18). Pauline had previously been a care worker and Barry had been one of her 'clients' since he was three years of age.

Tony's hobbies include watching football, reading, computers and crosswords and watching Pauline doing the gardening!

One of our readers has suggested we have a poetry corner. If you have written or found a particularly appropriate poem then send it in. In the light of recent interest in Wootton Bassett we submit this one.

ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT

The Vigil

It is Reveille again
But lost heroes
No longer muster
In the place
Which has been
The anvil of civilisations
Long gone and passed
In its history of conflict!

The corteges pass through
Wootton Bassett on their
Way to where their
Regiments and families
Are gathered to give
Expression to that grief
That at this time is
Poignant and immediate

But will last as long
As the lads who became
Men in conflict and
in a fight for which
They did not decide
But was the seen
Duty of Democracy.

God willing their sacrifice
Will not be in vain and
That a pragmatic political
Decision may bear fruit
And people will come and
Go without fear and persecution.

Brian Gill

WHEN YOU FAST... (MATTHEW 6:16)



"FASTING?... -OH IT'S O.K. TO
EAT THIS -IT'S 'FAST-FOOD'!"

Robin

Sprotbrough W.I. Report

Thankyou to all our members, families, friends and neighbours for supporting the Spring Fayre. There were beautiful stalls to visit and make your purchases. Teas and cakes and happy talk with long lost friends and at the end it was realised that the fayre had raised £1,045. WOW. A generous donation will be made at the W.I. meeting on June 14th to Bluebell Wood Children's Hospice. If you would like to come along to the meeting as a guest, you will be very welcome.

Janet Taylor
President

A Bishop writes:

A Prayer for Pentecost

“In the beginning, when God created the Heavens and Earth, the Earth was without form and void... and the Spirit of God moved over the face of the waters.”

These words are from the opening verses of the Bible. The word the Bible uses for Spirit means power or awesome wind (though let us never forget that the Holy Spirit is God Himself, the third person of the Trinity). We are very conscious of the power of wind, as we know when we are lashed by storms – and we continue to seek to harness this power and provide renewable energy.

The wind blows where it wills (as Jesus said) – sometimes as a gentle refreshing breeze, sometimes as an awesome and frightening storm. We cannot control it.

Because of this some of us can try to ignore the Spirit of God – and prefer our churches to be predictable and as we want them, and therefore frankly, dull. Others go to the other extreme and the whole thing becomes impossible and disordered. But the Spirit of God is both unpredictable and yet brings order out of chaos as the opening chapter of Genesis reminds us.

I read this recently: “The Holy Spirit is not a tame bird, kept in a clean cage, to be released

for short bursts at charismatic meetings. The Holy Spirit makes His habitation in some of the wildest and darkest places this world has to offer. He is able to go into the dark places of our lives, for healing, to the dark unvisited parts of our Churches, and to the darkest places of society.”

So let me finish with this Celtic prayer and offer it to you if you wish to use it this Pentecost:

***Spirit of God, be wild and free in me.
Bend my proud and stubborn will.
Blow me where you will choose.
Break me down if you must.
Refashion me as you will.
Move me powerfully away
from the games I play
in order to try and tame you
Lead me into the wild places,
the places of dream or scream
the new frontiers or the total quiet
the long dark tunnels
or the wide sunny vistas
to speak to lions
to move mountains
to bear tragedy
to mirror you.***

(Anon.)

The Lord is here. His Spirit is with us.



Copy for the magazine's July edition should be handed to the Editor, Betty Brockman, Copley House, Park Drive, Tel: 852046, NO LATER THAN Monday 6th June 2011 please.

Enquiries about advertising should be made to Vivien Jenkinson, Tel: 859453.

MR SPROT'S PAGE

Jesus said "I am the Vine, you are the branches,
and my Father is the Gardener"

John 15, 1 and 5



1. Buy a packet of seeds of a climbing plant such as a tall nasturtium.

2. Put some soil or compost in a pot and build a frame of sticks for your plant to climb.

A fine vineyard will appear.

There's something to sing about!
I, God, tend it.

I keep it well watered.

I keep careful watch over it
So that no one can damage it.

I'm not angry, I care.

Even if it gives me thistles and
thornbushes,

I'll just pull them out and burn them.
Let that vine cling to me for safety;

Let it find a good and whole
Life with me.

(Isaiah 27 2-5
The Message)

3. Plant your seeds and water them well. Think about God providing the things you need.

4. Put the pot somewhere safe. Think about God watching over you so that no one can damage you.

5. Look at your pot every day and think about God looking at you every day

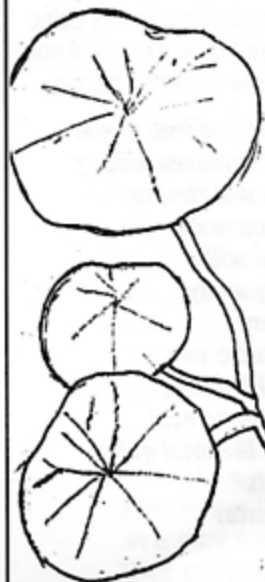
6. Keep watering your pot. If you forget, remember that God never forgets about you.

7. If any weeds grow in your pot pull them out. Think about God pulling out the bad things from your life.

8. As your plant grows, watch how it clings to the frame you made. Remember that you need to keep clinging to God.

9. If your plant falls down, pick it up and help it to cling on to the frame again. Thank God for people who help you cling to him.

10. When there are flowers on your plant, paint a picture or take a photo of them. Thank God for making something beautiful grow from something small.



TRINITY EXPLAINED

The very things in the Christian Faith that upset some people uplift me.

The doctrine of the Trinity for example. 'The Father incomprehensible, the son incomprehensible, the Spirit incomprehensible, yet there are not three incomprehensibles, but one incomprehensible.'

Of course God is incomprehensible. What else would you expect of his eternal, almighty Majesty, the sovereign Lord and Creator of space, time and matter?.

As for his three-in-oneness (his Tri-unity - trinity), we experience three-in-oneness whenever we do anything creative.

This comment, which you are reading, for example, has three existences - in my mind, on paper and in your mind. Yet it is one, not three. Each of the three is the whole. The first and third (in our minds) are invisible, as the Father and the Holy Spirit are invisible. The second is visible. As God became in Jesus Christ.

GORDON HARMAN

Churches Together in Sprotbrough

PENTECOST

3.00pm Sunday 12th June

A celebration in
St. Mary's Church Grounds

*Music, singing, drama, talk and
birthday cake.*

EVERYBODY WELCOME

If possible please bring your own chair.

Sunday t-Time

Sunday t-Time is a time when families, especially those with young children, can meet together for worship in an informal way. At each of the meetings there is a story linked to a parable or theme from the bible followed by a time of activities. These take place in St Mary's Church or Church Hall allowing everyone to choose how they spend their time.

In June there will be meetings on the 5th June and 19th June.

The Sunday t-Time Team
