

MAY 2011

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ACTIVITIES

SUNDAYS

10.30 am Morning Worship

HOLY COMMUNION

Every 2nd Sunday morning

TUESDAYS

5.00 pm Rainbows
6.00 pm Brownies

THURSDAYS

9.30 am Ramblers
7.00 pm Guides

CALENDAR FOR MAY

- 1st 10.30am Morning Worship
led by Mr David Pendle
- 6th 7.30 pm Elders Meeting
- 8th 10.30am Morning Worship
and Holy Communion led by
Mr Peter Rouse
- 15th 10.30am Morning Worship
led by Rev Dr Hazel Starritt
- 22nd 10.30am Morning Worship
Rev Helen Pattie
- 29th 10.30am Morning Worship
led by Rev David Pattie

CHRISTIAN AID LUNCH SUNDAY 15TH MAY

If you wish to join us for a frugal lunch at the start of Christian Aid Week, please put your name on the list at the back of the church.

The lunch will follow the morning service.

RUSH HILL UNITED REFORMED CHURCH

FROME ROAD, BATH

THE MERRY MONTH OF MAY

by: **Thomas Dekker**

THE month of May, the merry month of May,
So frolic, so gay, and so green, so green, so green!
O, and then did I unto my true love say,
Sweet Peg, thou shalt be my Summer's Queen.

('The Merry Month of May' was originally published in *The Shoemaker's Holiday* (1600).)

It is hard to believe that we are already in '*The Merry Month of May*' It always seems a good month – Spring in the air and summer just around the corner. Holidays not too far away!

Indeed May starts off with a holiday - **May Day** ... the 1st of May.

In many countries and to many people of a progressive mindset May Day is synonymous with International Workers' Day ... this being a day of political demonstrations and celebrations organised by the unions, communists, anarchists, and socialist groups ... a "workers holiday".

These May Day celebrations commemorate the fight for the eight hour working day and date back to 1856 after a Stonemasons victory over an unscrupulous employer. The idea, and the celebration, then spread around the globe.

Of course the celebration of May Day long pre-dates International Workers' Day. Its origins lie deep in the mists of Celtic legend and it is related to the festival of Beltane and the Germanic festival of Walpurgis Night. May Day marks the end of the un-farmable winter half of the year in the Northern hemisphere, and it has traditionally been an occasion for popular and often raucous celebrations.

Over the centuries as Europe became Christianized the pagan celebrations were either changed into popular secular celebrations, as with May Day, or were merged with or replaced by new Christian holidays as with Christmas, Easter, Pentecost and All Saint's Day.

In England May Day has, in places, remained a cultural occasion and traditional English May Day rites and celebrations can include Morris dancing, crowning a May Queen and celebrations involving a Maypole. In other words ... a fun-family-holiday ... with a rural 'twist'.

Interestingly enough an article in recent edition of The National Trust Magazine discusses research that speaks of the importance of relaxation with a rural 'twist'. It speaks about the social and health benefits of stepping back from work and engaging in nature. In other words ... striking a proper, natural life balance.

Of course this research, whilst deemed cutting edge, is really nothing new. After all in the Old Testament creation myth (Reported in Genesis 2:2) we read: "*By the seventh day God had finished the work he had been doing; so on the seventh day he rested from all his work.*"

So, if it was necessary for God to rest, then it is evidently right that we should do so too. Thus, May Day must be a good thing – however we understand it and choose to celebrate it ... An international day when we who work can have a 'holiday'. A day when the rights of others are promoted. An occasion for family fun ... with a rural 'twist'. A time of English cultural-connectedness.

Therefore, have a great May Day ... and follow our 'makers-example' have a good rest!

David

ORCHARDLEIGH

A little while ago the Ramblers set forth and started their walk at Rode and continued through the Orchardleigh Estate, just skirting the pretty thatched village of Lullington.

We didn't have time to visit the church on the Orchardleigh lake this time, but we have done so on many occasions. It really is picturesque especially at this time of year and well worth a visit.

The church itself has an interesting history which does include the true

The poem written by Sir Henry Neubolt is on the separate sheet with this newsletter.

Peter

SOCIAL CALENDAR

Sunday 15th May

Christian Aid Lunch. A frugal lunch following the morning service

Saturday June 18th

Enjoy a walk in local countryside and finish at a local pub for lunch. The walk will be an easy two hour walk. See Carol or Clair for more details

Sunday 3rd July

Church Picnic at Alexandra Park following the morning service. Transport will be available. Just bring a plate of food to share.

Saturday August 6th

Trip to Abergavenny Market, and Brecon Mountain Railway

Tickets £14. See Carol or Clair for more details

Saturday 1st October

Harvest Supper—details to be confirmed

Sunday 23rd October

Church Anniversary—Sunday lunch to follow the morning service

Saturday 19th November

Craft Fair at Rush Hill. Jewellery, glass, pottery, and other crafts, refreshments and light lunches. 11am—2pm. See Carol for more details and to book a stall.

Friday 2nd December

Carols and Chips Getting the festive season underway, 6pm for chips, 7pm for Carols.

COMMITMENT FOR LIFE PRAYER FOR MAY

“What good it is, my brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but do not have works” (*James 2:14*)

Giving God,

Make my faith strong enough to take action.

Make my faith strong enough to knock on doors and face rejection.

Make my faith strong enough to keep on knocking -

With campaigning

With lobbying

With A heart yearning for an end of poverty and injustice.

CHRISTIAN AID WEEK MAY 15TH—21ST

How quickly time flies!

Christian Aid Week is almost upon us again. Last year, although we had fewer volunteers we did exceptionally well. I do realise only too well how difficult it is becoming to go house to house but I hope that we will respond to the challenge.

The need for money is even more desperate and whatever money we manage to collect is so gratefully received. Please pray about this and if you are willing and able put your name against the street(s) you would prefer to cover.

Go with a friend or two for company and support and despite the negative responses the final results can be so rewarding. From experience I know that there are some very generous people out there just waiting for someone to call.

The envelopes and certificates will be available by Saturday May 14th.

Peter.

What the Bible really means....

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!" His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means? The son replied, "I do know!" "Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?" "That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth.'

Breakable

There was a very gracious lady who was posting an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country... "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments," answered the lady.

FLOWERS

May	1st	Joyce
	8th	Eileen
	15th	Joy and Gordon
	22nd	Eileen
	29th	Flower Fund
June	5th	June and Eunice
	12th	Sue and Richard

CHURCH CLEANING

May	1st	Maintenance Team
	8th	Mrs C Rumble
	15th	Mrs E Rumble
	22nd	Miss A Child
	29th	Mrs J Jones
June	5th	Maintenance Team
	12th	Mrs C Rumble

CHILDRENS ROTA

May	1st	Jackie
	8th	Carol
	15th	Sue
	22nd	Jackie
	29th	Carol
June	5th	Sue
	12th	Jackie

NEXT NEWSLETTER

Items for the next issue to Sue Thurston by 22nd May