



# **CORNERSTONE MAGAZINE**

**February – March 2020**

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## From Amanda...

I don't know about you, but for me, there is real pleasure in tearing off a chunk of still warm homemade bread to sop up the last bit of soup from my bowl. There is something wholesome and comforting in the simplicity of good bread. I still remember as a child going to the bakery with mum, choosing a loaf and then coming home and tucking into the thick crust with butter



and strawberry jam. Delicious!

Jesus uses bread in his teachings, parables, and miracles. When tempted by the Devil to turn stones into food, Jesus responds by quoting scripture: "Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God". When teaching his disciples to pray, he includes the phrase, "Give us today our daily bread". One of his amazing miracles involves breaking five loaves of bread and two fish, and providing enough food for 5,000 men and Jesus even refers to *Himself* as bread: "I am the Bread of Life."



During the coming weeks, we will be exploring together what the term '*Breaking Bread*' means. We will work with a broad understanding including and honouring the practice of Holy Communion but also reflecting on other ways we can get to know Jesus and make Him known. We will be reminded that the early Christians found God in every aspect of life, as they gathered to share their lives as community. They made mistakes, didn't always share and yet found something so special they tried to follow Christ's example. So they, like Him, took bread, the ordinary and every day; they gave thanks to God, they broke it, they shared it and they consumed it.

Through our exploration of *Breaking Bread* we will be invited to gather, and take the everyday; thanking God for it, breaking it, sharing it and eating it. And as we do this, our prayer is that we will be transformed by God's love and energised by His Spirit to play our part in transforming our churches and our communities.

May God bless us as we work our way though this Holy Habit.

*Christ's blessings,  
Rev Amanda Roper*

## IN REMEMBRANCE

<b>Marion Turpin</b>	<b>5th February 1994</b>
<b>Jack Crock</b>	<b>20th March 1998</b>
<b>Lillian Crock</b>	<b>24th March 1999</b>
<b>Dorothy Richards</b>	<b>28th March 2002</b>
<b>May Evans</b>	<b>29th March 2001</b>

**We remember them with gratitude and give thanks to God for them – and for all those who worked and worshipped here.**

### **From Commitment for Life**

#### **Safe Water in Matabeleland**

This month we highlight the superb work done by one of *Commitment for Life's* **Christain Aid** partners in Zimbabwe, Dabane Trust.

Dabane Trust operates in the south- western areas of the country - Matabeleland South and Matabeleland North. These regions are classified as arid and semi-arid rangelands. Here, Dabane Trust develops and supports sustainable low technology community initiatives. It is a leading, non-governmental organization dedicated to establishing water and food secure communities.

Dabane has what they call 'Water Workshops' which involve teaching and learning about water. Water sanitation and hygiene are especially emphasised.

Communities are encouraged to have clean kitchens, pit latrines with handwashing facilities and well organised refuse pits. Communities are also encouraged to draw water for domestic purposes only from approved water sources.

In addition, Dabane is involved in borehole rehabilitation and construction of Rowa pumps.

Dabane works with rural communities to develop clean, palatable water supplies for household use, livestock drinking and small-scale irrigation systems. Communities are assisted in developing alternative and seasonal water resources for sustainable domestic use, sanitation and hygiene. Learn more at <http://dabane.org>

## Lethal Government Force in Nicaragua

Nicaragua is the second poorest country in the western hemisphere after Haiti. Ordinary people are saying, enough.

Huge demonstrations, led by students, began on 18 April in response to government reforms. These hiked worker social security contributions, while cutting benefits.



Nicaraguan authorities have adopted a strategy of repression. They have relied on the excessive use of force, extrajudicial executions, control of the media, and the use of pro-government armed groups, to crush protests, according to Amnesty International.

“The Nicaraguan authorities have turned on their own people,” said Erika Guevara-Rosas, Americas Director at Amnesty International. “The government of President Ortega has then shamelessly tried to cover up these atrocities, violating the victims’ rights to truth, justice and reparation.”

It is vital that organisations like *Commitment for Life*, along with partners **Christian Aid**, are active in countries like Nicaragua.

**Christian Aid** works in Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Nicaragua. It has learned that an effective way to work in the region is to link up with local organisations. We partner with community-based groups as well as larger organisations operating across the region, like Centro Humboldt. Centro Humboldt works on climate monitoring across the country. It trains local people to monitor the climate and share the data with small farmers, cooperatives and local organisations.

Centro Humboldt also gathers evidence of tax evasion from mining companies. These lost revenues have negative consequences on the national budget and government capacity in social investment.

*Commitment for Life* strongly supports a fair taxation system in the hope of an equal sharing of God’s abundance.

## MELISMATA

That is not the name of a señorita.

A melisma is a group of notes of music, sung to one syllable of text. It is a Greek word. Melismata is the plural. Melismata are ancient. We can hear them in some of the earliest music that has come down to us - plainsong - and we can hear them in modern pop. They are common in our hymn books. For example, "Alleluia" is usually given a melisma. When the group is down to two notes, the second of the two is often called a "passing" note. But a melisma may be very long. The carol "Ding dong merrily on high" has 31 notes on the first syllable of "Gloria". Handel beat that, giving his soprano 49 notes for the second syllable of "rejoice" in the solo "Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion"

Melismata are a great way to decorate a tune and emphasise words.

Many of our older hymn tunes are quite undecorated. Our Puritan forefathers went for simplicity. Most older tunes have just one note per syllable - *O God, our help in ages past* is typical, dating from 1708. A hundred years later, tastes had moved to prefer more ornament, and we have tunes like DUKE STREET - *Give to our God immortal praise* (1793), which is embellished with a fine assembly of passing notes.

Our observant readers will have recognised that the words of the two hymns I quoted were written by Dr Isaac Watts. Bernard Manning, an expert on Watts, thought that it was perhaps *cheerfulness* that was the most distinct note in Watts' poetry. It is another "cheerful" hymn - one based on Psalm 146 - that I looked at this month - *I'll praise my Maker while I've breath* (R&S 734, StF 79). Earlier English versions of the Psalms stuck close to scripture. Watts broke new ground. He said he wanted to "make David speak like a Christian". Opening his King James' Bible at Psalm 146, he read (verse 2)

*While I live will I praise the Lord*

but there was more for a Christian than "*while I live*". Watts knew about Resurrection, and that knowledge inspired him to go onwards and upwards

*And when my voice is lost in death*

*Praise shall employ my nobler powers.*

*My days of praise shall ne'er be past*

*While life, and thought, and being last,*

*Or immortality endures.*

That's real cheerfulness. Isaac Watts wrote the hymn *early* in the 1730s. John Wesley knew it well. It was one of his favourites, included in a "Psalm and Hymn" collection that he made in 1737. He used it in his last service at City Road, London. We can thank him for improving three lines of Watts' text.

Watts' opening line had been:

*I'll praise my Maker with my breath*

Wesley's *while I've breath* links better with the next line, and is easier to sing than *with my breath*.

In verse 3, Watts wrote:

*The Lord hath eyes to give the Blind,  
The Lord supports the sinking Mind,*

which Wesley amended to:

*The Lord pours eyesight on the blind,  
The Lord supports the fainting mind*

In our hymn books we have four of Watts' original six verses. Our verses 2 and 3 are paraphrases of verses 7,8 & 9 of the Psalm.

The lines in our verse 3:

*He sends the labouring conscience peace...  
and grants the prisoner sweet release*

would have been full of painful memories for Isaac. When he was young, his father, a non-conforming minister in Southampton, had been imprisoned more than once for dissent.

Our two hymn books set Watts' hymn to two very different styles of music, reflecting perhaps 30 years difference in date of composition - "Rejoice and Sing" has LUCERNE (1770) by Johann Schmidlin, who was a precentor (choirmaster) in the Swiss Reformed Church. LUCERNE is a noble tune, solid and stately, allowing just one note to each syllable.

Nearer home, Gabriel Davis, who composed the tune set in "Singing the Faith"- MONMOUTH (1800) - ran a Baptist choir in Portsea, Hampshire. The melody of MONMOUTH is cheerful and richly ornamented, dancing along with two- or three-note melismata in every line. The harmony is less exciting.

One of our blessings in the united church with our two hymn books is that we can choose the music to suit the occasion and the character and mood of a Service.

DJT

## What are you doing in February and March?

**Communion: 9<sup>th</sup> February (URC)**

**Trustee – Christine House**

**TBA (Methodist)**

**Trustee – John Lane**

**Ushers – Carole Marchant  
Doug Scott**

### Trustee

### Welcomers

#### 'Door'

#### 'Inside'

**2<sup>nd</sup> FEB'RY** John Harriyott  
**9<sup>th</sup>** Christine House  
**16<sup>th</sup>** John Lane  
**23<sup>rd</sup>** Carole Marchant

Clare Warren  
Tony Budgen  
Bernard Cook  
Christine House

Doug Scott  
Monica Budgen  
Hazel Cook  
Lynne Coates

**1<sup>st</sup> MARCH** Doug Scott  
**8<sup>th</sup>** Clare Warren  
**15<sup>th</sup>** Norman Wood  
**22<sup>nd</sup>** Jeremy Hallett  
**29<sup>th</sup>**

Carole Marchant  
John Lane  
Doug Scott  
Monica Budgen

Coretha McCreery  
Teresa Lane  
Clare Warren  
Tony Budgen

### Readers

### Refreshments

**2<sup>nd</sup> FEB'RY** Sheila Warner and Clare Warren  
**9<sup>th</sup>** Kathy Weller and Monica Budgen  
**16<sup>th</sup>** Lynne Coates and Chris Evans  
**23<sup>rd</sup>** John Harriyott and Sonia Harriyott

Carole Marchant  
Kathy Weller  
Tony/Monica Budgen  
Bernard/Hazel Cook

**1<sup>st</sup> MARCH** Coretha McCreery and Doug Scott  
**8<sup>th</sup>** Teresa Lane and John Lane  
**15<sup>th</sup>** Anita Smith and Derek Thorogood  
**22<sup>nd</sup>** James Walton and Kathy Weller  
**29<sup>th</sup>** Clare Warren and Norman Wood

Linda Hallett  
John/Sonia Harriyott  
Christine House  
Teresa Lane  
Coretha McCreery

## Diary dates:

### February

Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> 10.00am Fairtrade coffee morning at The Source

**Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: Mrs Claire Steen**

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Encounter bible study at Cornerstone

Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> 6.00pm Beetle Drive at Cornerstone

**Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship (HC): Rev Amanda Roper**

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Encounter bible study at United, Crowborough

**Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: Mr Doug Scott**

12 midday Bring and share lunch

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Encounter bible study at Cornerstone

**Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: Rev David Hague**

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Encounter bible study at United, Crowborough

### March

**Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: tba**

Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Encounter bible study at Cornerstone

Friday 6<sup>th</sup> 9.30am Cornerstone "painting/decorating party"

Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> 10.00am Fairtrade coffee morning at The Source

**Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: tba**

12 midday Marriage & relationship discussion (own lunch)

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Encounter bible study at United, Crowborough

**Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: tba**

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Encounter bible study at Cornerstone

**Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: tba**

Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> 7.30pm Encounter bible study at United, Crowborough

**Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> 10.30am Morning Worship: tba**

Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> 10.30am Encounter bible study at Cornerstone

### **Events and dates in April:**

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April 10am Fairtrade coffee morning at The Source  
10am–2.30pm 'Make a Difference' at United, Crowb.

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> April tba Holy Communion at Buxted

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April 11am Walk of Witness from Cornerstone

Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2.00pm Mystery Drive and Cream Tea

## The Secret

I met God in the morning  
When my day was at its best,  
And His presence came like sunrise,  
Like a glory in my breast.

All day long the Presence lingered,  
All day long He stayed with me,  
And we sailed in perfect calmness  
O'er a very troubled sea.

Other ships were blown and battered,  
Other ships were sore distressed,  
but the winds that seemed to drive them  
Brought to us a peace and rest.

Then I thought of other mornings,  
With a keen remorse of mind,  
When I too had loosed the moorings,  
With the Presence left behind.

So I think I know the secret,  
Learned from many a troubled way:  
You must seek Him in the morning  
If you want Him through the day!

--Ralph Spaulding Cushman

Rev. Bishop Ralph Spaulding Cushman was the son of Rev. Allerton Earl and Nellie Grace (Honey) Cushman. He was the husband of Maude Estella (Hammond) Cushman. They were married August 20, 1902. Maude died in 1971. He was a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church: New England Southern Conference 1898 F 1905 Detroit Conference Central New York Conference 1915 Genesee (now Western New York) Conference 1920. He was elected Bishop in the Methodist Episcopal Church in 1932.

### Biography

Bishop Cushman was educated at Troy Conference Academy, Poultney (1898), and Wesleyan University (Ph.D., 1902), he did graduate study in Edinburgh and London in 1910, and later received the D.D. and LL.D. from Wesleyan and the Litt.D from Hamline. He married Maude Hammond, August 20, 1902, and they had two children, Mabel Elizabeth (Mrs. Insley J. Stiles) and Rev. Robert Earl Cushamn. Though Cushman's father and grandfather were Congregational ministers, he joined the New England Conference of the Methodist Episcopal Church, in 1903, and was ordained Deacon in 1904, and Elder in 1907.

His appointments were: Bryantville, Mass., 1902-1904, Acushnet, Mass., 1904-1906; Danielson, Conn., 1906-1911; St. Paul's, Fall River, Mass., 1911-1915; Court Street, Flint, Mich., 1915 (four months); Geneva, New York., 1915-1917; executive secretary, stewardship campaign, Centenary Commission, 1917-1919; stewardship secretary, Interchurch World Movement, 1919-1920; Asbury Church, Rochester, New York, 1920-1932. He was a delegate to the 1928 and 1932 General Conferences, and was elected Bishop at the latter. His episcopal assignments were: the Denver Area, 1932-1939, and the Minnesota Area, 1939-1952. Cushman was chairman of the commission on evangelism, 1932-1939, and president of the Anti-Saloon League of America, 1939-1948. He served as a member of the World Service Commission, as president of the board of trustees of Iliff School of Theology, and as a trustee of Denver University, Hamline University, Lawrence College, Wesley College (Grand forks, North Dakota), and Dakota Wesleyan. An author and poet, Cushman wrote some twenty-five books on the subject of evangelism, stewardship, and prayer, including *Hilltop Verses and Prayers*, *Practicing the Presence-A Quest for God* and *The Essentials of Evangelism*. At the Uniting Conference, Cushman and Bishop Charles Claude Selecman supervised the morning watch and the evangelistic services. Retiring in 1952, Cushman lived for a time at Raleigh, North Carolina. Bishop Herbert Welch said, "Bishop Cushman was a poet and recognized/writer of religious meditations and prayers, and was markedly evangelistic in his activities." He died at Herkimer, New York, on 10<sup>th</sup> August 1960, aged 80.

My thanks to Sonia Harriyott for sending me the above.

## **Flower arranger volunteers**

If anybody feels they would like to be added to the list of flower arrangers for our Sunday services, please speak to Sue Wood. No particular skill is needed – the flowers are the glorification to God. If there is a particular date that you would like in remembrance of a family member, it may be possible provided it does not clash with one already requested by another member.

## **New email address for Doug Scott**

Doug has advised that his email address is now [douglasmcscott42@gmail.com](mailto:douglasmcscott42@gmail.com)

## From Commitment for Life

### Nobel Peace Prize Winner falls from grace

Aung San suu Kyi, State Counsellor for Myanmar, has defended charges in The Hague against the country's military. Myanmar faces charges of genocide and atrocities committed against its Muslim Rohingya minority.

Thousands of Rohingya were killed and more than 700,000 fled to neighbouring Bangladesh during an army crackdown in 2017. Myanmar insists it was tackling extremism.

Ms Suu Kyi was an icon for global human rights. Now she has chosen to defend the army that kept her under house arrest.

The case has been brought by The Gambia, a small Muslim-majority west African nation, on behalf of dozens of other Muslim countries.

In 2017 there were one million Rohingya, mostly in in Rakhine state. But Myanmar, a mainly Buddhist country, considers them illegal immigrants and denies them citizenship.

Meanwhile in Commitment for Life's partner country, Bangladesh, the Foreign Minister AK Abdul Momen and Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan have cancelled their scheduled trips to India. This is in response to unrest in the Indian states of Assam and Meghalaya.

The unrest follows the controversial Citizenship Bills. Many decry these as discriminatory, echoing an Indian Apartheid state. Indian President Ram Nath Kovind has already given his assent to the Citizenship (Amendment) Bill, 2019, turning it into a law amid violent street protests.



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Meanwhile, **Christian Aid** continues to support the Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. Six-year-old Asha is one of the refugees stuck in camps on the border of Bangladesh, in what is now the fastest-growing refugee crisis in the world. Asha fled after her home was burnt to the ground and her mother, father and three sisters killed. Conditions in the camps are incredibly difficult and children like Asha are particularly vulnerable.

The generosity of *Commitment for Life* supporters has meant many displaced people like Asha have been helped. Our local partners in Cox's Bazar, where the camps are located, provide food, shelter, dignity kits and water.

## **“Truisms” about chocolate**

Chocolate is cheaper than therapy, and you never need to make an appointment.

Seven days without chocolate makes one weak.

All I want is peace, love, understanding and a chocolate bar bigger than my hand.

## **“Hang in there”** (apologies if this was printed in a previous edition)

Eleven people were hanging on a rope, under a helicopter – ten men and one woman.

The rope was not strong enough to carry them all so they decided that one had to leave, because otherwise they were all going to fall. They weren't able to choose that person, until the woman gave a very touching speech.

She said that she would voluntarily let go of the rope because, as a woman, she was used to giving up everything for her husband and children, or for men in general, and was used to always making sacrifices with little in return.

As soon as she finished her speech all the men started clapping ...

## **With apologies to the Irish, and on the basis that you never make fun of someone you do not like:**

- The Irish have solved their own fuel problems. They imported 50 million tonnes of sand from the Arabs and they're going to drill for their own oil.
- Paddy is in the bathroom and Murphy shouts to him "did you find the shampoo?"  
Paddy replies "Yes, but it's for dry hair and I've just wet mine."
- Paddy spies a letter lying on his doormat. It says on the envelope "DO NOT BEND".  
Paddy spends the next 2 hours trying to figure out how to pick it up.
- Paddy shouts frantically into the phone "My wife is pregnant and her contractions are only two minutes apart!"  
"Is this her first child?" asks the doctor.  
"No", shouts Paddy, "this is her husband!"
- An old Irish farmer's dog goes missing and he's inconsolable. His wife says "why don't you put an advert in the paper?"  
He does, but two weeks later the dog is still missing.  
"What did you put in the paper?" his wife asks.  
"Here boy" he replies.
- Paddy's in jail. The guard looks in his cell and sees him hanging by his feet.  
"What on earth you doing?" he asks.  
"Hanging myself" Paddy replies.  
"It should be around your neck" says the guard.  
"I know" says Paddy "but I couldn't breathe".
- An American tourist asks an Irishman:  
"Why do scuba divers always fall backwards off their boats?"  
"They have to go backwards" replied the Irishman. "If they fell forwards, they'd still be in the boat."

**The Hall and/or the Meeting Room and/or the Sanctuary are used by the following groups:**

**Sundays:**

5.00pm – 9.30pm (MR) Social Services

**Mondays:**

6.00pm – 7.00pm (H) Karate

**Tuesdays:**

6.30pm – 7.30pm (H) Jujitsu

8.00pm – 9.00pm (H) Circuit training group

**Wednesdays:**

10.00am – 12 midday (H) Baby and Toddler Group

5.30pm – 6.30pm (MR and S) Youth Theatre

7.00pm – 9.00pm (H) Social Services

7.30pm – 9.30pm (MR and S) Adult Theatre Guild

**Thursdays:**

9.00am – 10.30am (H) Mini Motion

7.30pm – 10.00pm (H) Uckfield Photographic Society  
(First **and** third Thursdays)

