

February 2018

# The Wave....

... Waveney Valley Ecumenical Partnership



## A TALE OF TWO SAINTS

February, traditionally our thoughts turn to St. Valentine's Day, but I'm writing this in January and so I also think of St. Dwynwen, the Welsh patron saint of lovers. Her day is traditionally celebrated on the 25<sup>th</sup> January. I thought it might be interesting to look at both these saints.....

### St. Dwynwen



Dwynwen lived during the 5th century and legend has it that she was one of the prettiest of Brychan Brycheiniog's 24 daughters. Dwynwen fell in love with a prince called Maelon Dafodrill, but unfortunately her father had already arranged that she should marry someone else

Dwynwen was so upset that she could not marry Maelon that she begged God to make her forget him. After falling asleep, Dwynwen was visited by an angel, who appeared carrying a sweet potion designed to erase all memory of Maelon and turn him into a block of ice.

God then gave three wishes to Dwynwen. Her first wish was that Maelon be thawed; her second that God meet the hopes and dreams of true lovers; and third, that she should never marry. All three were fulfilled, and as a mark of her thanks, Dwynwen devoted herself to God's service for the rest of her life.

She founded a convent on Llanddwyn, off the west coast of Anglesey, where a well named after her became a place of pilgrimage after her death in 465AD. Visitors to the well believed that the sacred fish or eels that lived in the well could foretell whether or not their relationship would be happy and whether love and happiness would be theirs. Remains of Dwynwen's church can still be seen today.

## St. Valentine



Originally a pagan priest in third century Rome, St Valentine became a Christian convert. Despite being noted for his chastity, he became the patron saint of lovers. It became an old country custom to choose sweethearts on his feast day. The earliest Valentine cards written on parchment appeared in the fourteenth century.

Whoever he was, Valentine did really exist, because archaeologists have unearthed a Roman catacomb and an ancient church dedicated to St. Valentine. In 496 AD Pope Gelasius marked February 14th as a celebration in honour of his martyrdom.

He got his reputation as a saint not just through his martyrdom but also his actions. One common story about St. Valentine is that in one point of his life, as the former Bishop of Terni, Narnia and Amelia, he was on house arrest with Judge Asterius. While discussing religion and faith with the Judge, Valentine pledged the validity of Jesus. The judge immediately put Valentine and his faith to the test. St. Valentine was presented with the judge's blind daughter and told to restore her sight. If he succeeded, the judge vowed to do anything for Valentine. Placing his hands onto her eyes, Valentine restored the child's vision.

St. Valentine is the Patron Saint of bee keepers, engaged couples, epilepsy, fainting, greetings, happy marriages, love, lovers, plague, travellers, and young people. He is represented in pictures with birds and roses and his feast day is celebrated on February 14.

So there we are, a tale of two saints, both giving loving care to others. Whether we believe in them or not thinking about love and how we can demonstrate our love for others makes us look at our Christian values, and helps us carry that 'Christmas feeling' into the new year.

*Jacquie*

## Dates for your diary

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February from 10am – 12 noon** - The monthly SATURDAY COFFEE MORNING at **London Road Church, Harleston**. The proceeds from this Coffee Morning will be in aid of our Partnership Charity “Dementia UK”.

**Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> February at 7.30** - Partnership Fellowship - a talk by Rosemary Steer on Mrs Brandreth’s Charity for Children – **London Road Church**

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February from 2 to 4pm** - Afternoon Tea at **London Road Church** and thereafter on the fourth Sunday of each month.

**Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> February** – the Vice President of the Methodist Conference is visiting the Partnership. She will be taking the service at **Emmanuel Church at 10.45** and also leading **Encircling Prayer at Pulham Methodist Church at 6.30**.

Everyone welcome at all events in the Partnership. Please try and support where you are able.

**Monday 5<sup>th</sup> March** – Partnership representatives’ meeting at **Wortwell URC 7.30pm**

**Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> May** – District Celebration at 6.30pm in St. Edmundsbury Cathedral with Guest Speaker Rev’d Loraine Mellor, President of Methodist Conference. This is a free event with refreshments included. It is hoped we may be able to get some form of collective transport together to go to this important event. **Please put the date in your diary NOW and let Rev’d Jacquie or Pat Williamson know, as soon as possible, if you hope to attend.** This will enable us to see if we need to book our own transport or try and share with another Group.



### **WOMEN’S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER – Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March**

Emmanuel Church, Bungay – 2pm

Pulham Market Methodist Church – 7pm

Jays Green Roman Catholic Church Harleston – 7pm

**ALL LADIES AND GENTLEMEN WELCOME AT THESE SERVICES**

## Going Green

It is now 11 years since Revd Roy Robinson started to organise the Climate Change Conference at Emmanuel and our Going Green journey began and who would have believed the amount that we have achieved but there is so much more we could do. A large part of our Project is to encourage others to begin their own Going Green journey, whether individually or as a Church but how and where does someone start?

For your first step, you need to think small – Do you turn lights off when you leave a room, close doors to keep the heat in and if you have a choice of different sized rooms, then choose the most appropriate to save heating the unneeded space? How do you deal with your rubbish? Do you recycle where you can and do you follow the motto, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle? Look at the items you buy and decide whether a change would reduce the packaging. Can you or someone else reuse an unwanted item – think Charity Shop? Recycling comes third which includes buying items in packaging that can be recycled – reduce your dependence on plastic.

We have bought rubbish bins at Emmanuel which are the same colour as our wheelie bins to encourage everyone to bin correctly.

When these small steps become habit, then you have begun your Going Green journey and it is time to look at your buildings in detail. Could your windows be double glazed or secondary glazed? Do your doors have draught excluders or is your loft insulated? Could your lighting be changed to LEDs which use a fraction of the electricity to run and are often brighter? What kind of heating do you use and is it efficient? How do you heat your water?

You don't have to do everything at once and an added bonus to many of the above is that they save you money in the long term.

Talking about what you do and encouraging others to follow suit is a very important part of your journey and this can start at home with your family and neighbours – Going Green is a lifestyle choice but more importantly, I believe it is our way of looking after God's creation.

Please consider looking up "Eco Church" on your computer. This is A Rocha UK's award scheme for churches in England and Wales who want to demonstrate that the gospel is good news for God's earth and includes all denominations. The United Reformed Church and Methodist Church both support this. As well as sharing some good ideas from other Churches, they have an online survey that enables congregations to record their progress and plan future initiatives. This is a simple tick box list covering five areas of Church life:-

- 1 Worship and Teaching
- 2 Buildings
- 3 Land
- 4 Community and Global
- 5 Lifestyle

Thank you for reading this.      Graham Gibbs

