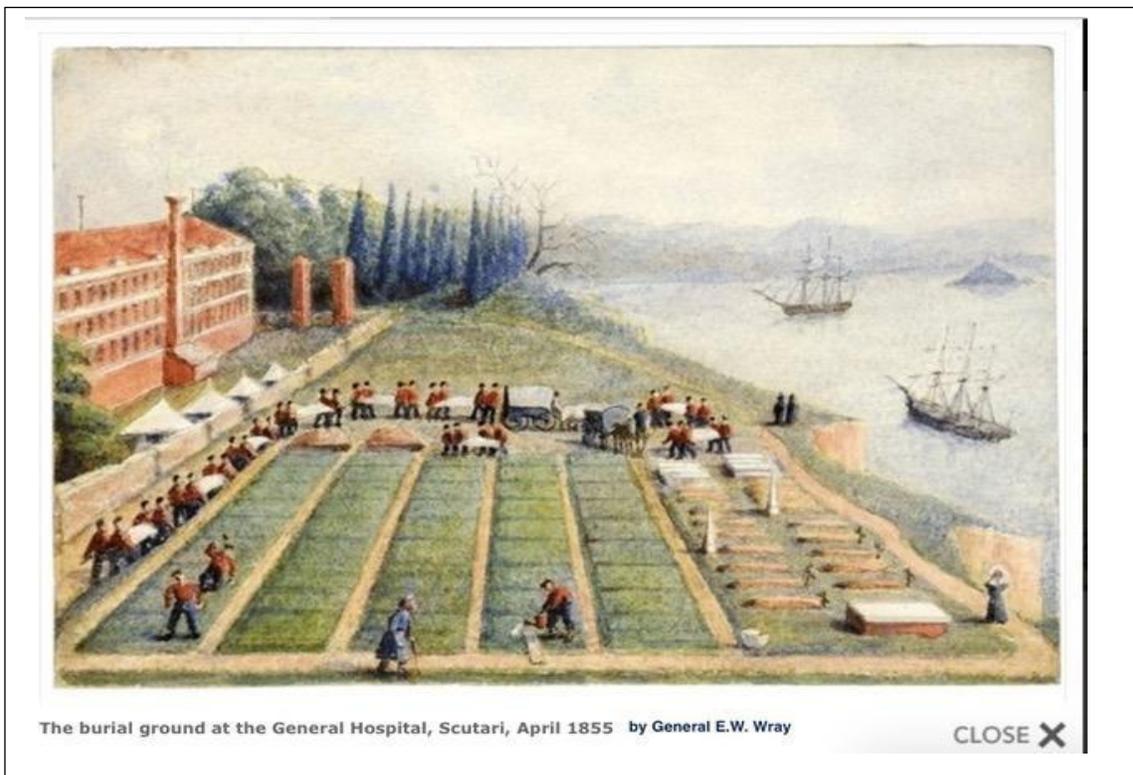


Coop's Scoops #27, May 14, 2020

Good morning everyone! It will be afternoon or evening when you receive this. I hope you have as enjoyable a time as I will while I complete the writing of it. This Coop's Scoops ministry has become part of me....something I look forward to doing each time.

We begin today with some responses about the celebration of the Saints Day for Florence Nightingale. It always amazes me the deep roots and connectedness that abide in our congregations to events and people through many, many generations. First we hear from Phil Gunyon. ,

Your mention in CoopsScoops #36 today, of Florence Nightingale at Scutari during the Crimean War, made me think of my first cousin, 3 times removed, George Joseph Gunyon. Baptised the 27th Mar 1831 at Holy Trinity, Clapham, Surrey, England, he died of wounds on 6th Dec 1854 at Scutari Hospital, Turkey. These were sustained at the Battle of Alma (fought the 20th September 1854.) He was a Corporal in the 95th Regiment of Foot, also known as "The Nails". George probably lies in one of the graves at this General Hospital in the picture below. It is still a military hospital today.



Wow, a place where Florence Nightingale worked! And Phil's 1st cousin three times removed was treated but died of his injuries. And now we hear from Rev. Barbara Graham:

Every year when I was in training a service in memory of her was held for all the Nurses in the city of Birmingham England. One year when it was held at St Martin's In the Bull Ring I (who had been looking for place to worship) went in and after kneeling said to myself "I have come home" It was there that I was confirmed on May 29th 1950 at the advanced age (2 days later) of 21. So Florence Nightingale was and is a special person for me.

Picture it...our Barbara+, 21 years of age, brought into her new church by a memorial for Florence Nightingale in Birmingham. She "came home" and was confirmed two days later. The rest is history...history that took her to other countries and territories and has resulted in the ministries of both outpost nursing and lay ministry, diaconal ministry and priestly ministry. Hooray, and thanks for sharing the memory, Barbara+

NEWS in the Parish: Beth Galbraith, Barbara Gunyon are going to be tending our outdoor gardens this summer. They've already had a reconnoiter and were thrilled that the sand and winter debris were already gone.....raked up by Rick Lees, who just appeared with his mask and his rake and got working after my pitch for helpers for the gardens in an earlier Scoop! The lovely courtyard garden work will have to wait until we reopen but it will be tended lovingly then by Catherine Thompson.

- Speaking of gardens, Rev. Margaret made a suggestion that was happily approved by the Wardens at St. Ambrose which will result in beautiful gardens once more outside the elevated church building so that flowers on the hillside will once again brighten the days for Baysville residents.
- And in case anyone is worried, gardeners outside will be masked and at least six feet apart at all times!
- Michele and Tony Bertin were able to receive their gift from ST. Thomas' for the wonderful Easter Sunday work on the sign. That sun shining through white clouds and blue sky, the tomb, the flowers, the grass...what a memory for us. They received a letter of Thanksgiving passed by

unanimous motion at an emailed Parish Council meeting as well as an 8x 10 picture taken by myself, and a lovely donated frame. Michele is going to be working on a permanent replica, impervious to weather etc, for future Easter Sundays and for use within the Church as well.

- Our financial givings remain excellent and that is the sign of good stewards practicing their faith. Well done! We also want to bless and support those who are not able to continue at this time, or have had to reduce their offerings in this time when financial matters can be very fraught. You will received the fraud alert separately for your knowledge of the gift card scam. I pray we are all protected from such nasty plots and that those who prey on people during this pandemic will in some form be brought to justice.

Joke for Today: Pre-Covid 19 driving with our friends (Sent by Caroline)

Sitting on the side of the highway waiting to catch speeding drivers, an OPP Officer sees a car puttering along at 35 km an hour. He thinks, "This driver is just as dangerous as a speeder!" So he turns on his lights and pulls the driver over. Approaching the car, he notices that there are three other elderly ladies-in the vehicle --- wide eyed and white as ghosts. The driver, obviously confused, says to him, "Officer, I don't understand, I was doing exactly the speed limit! What seems to be the problem?"

"Ma'am," the officer replies, "you weren't speeding, but you should know that driving slower than the speed limit can also be a danger to other drivers."

"Slower than the speed limit? No sir, I was doing the speed limit exactly ...Twenty-two kilometres an hour!" the old woman says a bit proudly.

The OPP officer, trying to contain a chuckle explains to her that "22" was the highway number, not the speed limit. A bit embarrassed, the woman grinned and thanked the officer for pointing out her error. "But before I let you go, Ma'am, I have to ask... Is everyone OK? These women seem awfully shaken and they haven't uttered a single peep this whole time."

"Oh, they'll be all right in a minute officer. We just got off Hwy 141."
(Good thing it wasn't the 401!!!!!!!- jc)

Scripture for Today: Ecclesiastes 1:9, 3:1-8, The New Jerusalem Bible

What was, will be again; what has been done, will be done again, and there is nothing new under the sun. There is a season for everything, a time for every occupation under heaven;

A time for giving birth, a time for dying,

A time for planting, a time for uprooting what has been planted

A time for killing, and a time for healing,

A time for knocking down and a time for building

A time for tears, a time for laughter

A time for mourning, a time for dancing

A time for throwing stones away, a time for gathering them

A time for embracing, a time to refrain from embracing

A time for searching, a time for losing

A time for keeping, a time for discarding,

A time for tearing, a time for sewing;

A time for keeping silent, a time for speaking,

A time for loving, a time for hating;

A time for war, a time for peace.

These words from Ecclesiastes are all about time, yet they are timeless. We hear a great deal about things that are “unprecedented” in this covid pandemic time. The truth is that nothing we are experiencing is unprecedented. All generations have their times of freedom and isolation, wellness and plague, riches and poverty....a time for everything that has just been listed. It is a comfort to us that what was, will be again. We will embrace, we will build, we will dance –and not six feet apart. It is also a daunting challenge to us in that what we are experiencing “now” becomes what “was” for the next generation, and that there will again be epidemics and plague. With each passing generation, we have opportunities to learn how to enhance the positive and “fix” what we can of the negative, and not repeat mistake upon mistake upon mistake. And in all times there will be seasons for all things.

Here’s another voluntary homework assignment for you. I recommend getting a journal – fancy or just a Hilroy notebook – and going through the times listed in Ecclesiastes 3. Go slowly and think deeply maybe about one set of opposites at a time. For example, a time for giving birth, a time for dying: when exactly did you experience giving birth, helping another to give birth, rejoicing when someone you loved gave birth? Try to re-feel, re-image those feelings. Jot

it down. Then go slowly and think deeply about dying. When have you grieved the loss of loved ones, when have you grieved for mass dying, as in shooting sprees or poison Koolaid at Jonestown, when have you grieved with hope, when have you experienced mourning as ashes, and then turned into a garland of joy, when have you pondered your own dying? Heavy thoughts indeed. Jot what seems important down. Give your thanks and make your laments to God and just leave it.

Another day go to the next pair “planting and uprooting” and go through the same process. Continue until you’ve gone through them all. You will then have compiled a history of the most important things in your life...and you will have placed them not as individual happenings but as a continuance of events/ feelings that have shaped you. And you will look at “new” things that happen, as continuances of living...not forever, just for a season. You will develop ways of hanging on to the joyous, and recalling them during the lamenting times.

Why not give it a try? We seem to have some time on our hands! (and that too will change!)

Blessings on your journey, wherever it takes you.

Prayer of Resting

Be present, O merciful God, and protect us through the hours of this night, so that we who are wearied by the changes and chances of this life may rest in your eternal changelessness; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen. (BCP Compline)*

Prayer of Doing

(this prayer was the first prayer of a Muslim man upon becoming a Christian)
O God, I am Musafah the tailor and I work at the shop of Muhammad Ali. The whole day long I sit and pull the needle and the thread through the cloth. O God, you are the needle and I am the thread. I am attached to you and follow you. When the thread tries to slip away from the needle it becomes tangled and must be cut so that it can be put back in the right place. O God, help me to follow you wherever you may lead me. For I am really only Mustafah the tailor, and I work at the shop of Muhammad Ali on the great square. (from the The Oxford Book of Prayer, George Appleton, Oxford University Press, 1985)

An Update on our Beloved Brother Geoff Plummer

Geoff is moving into his time for dying. I shared anointing prayers with him on Wednesday at hospice in North Bay. He has declined rapidly in the past few days so that he now is sleeping mostly, but when awake, still full of wit and his way of being a blessing to anyone who is with him. The hospice staff are tending to him with great care and affection. Chris and Leslie are with him every day. The hospice is closed for visitors other than designated family and clergy for critical times. I passed your love to Geoff and he acknowledge with a grin and a head shake to say that he loves everyone here too. You have prayed for Geoff and his doctors use the word miracle to describe his last three months up until this time. He has been outdoors, at barbeques, playing card games, making another model train kit, (Oh his trains!), enjoying the food, reading....he went through the entire Bible twice since his admission... and having his favourite libation whenever he wanted (you'll know what). So, please pray for a gentle and timely passing from love here to love in the Kingdom for Geoff. This one whom God loves will soon be embraced by the God who will deliver him from death. He expects that Anita will "tune him right up".

Smile, and be glad as you reach for the Kleenex.

