



# Sunday Snippets

15th July 2018

## The Naval Hymn

Last week we celebrated Sea Sunday when the first hymn was "Eternal Father Strong to Save" which has become widely known at the Naval Hymn. The author of the words, William Whiting, was an Anglican clergyman in Winchester, hardly a seaside town, yet William Whiting had not only grown up by the sea but had nearly drowned in it.



As a young man, he was once on a ship which was caught in a violent storm.

He felt certain that it was God who saved the ship from sinking and some years later, as headmaster of the Winchester College Choristers' School, he was approached by a student in distress. The student was due to sail to the USA and was simply terrified at the thought of 3,000 miles of ocean. To try and reassure him, William Whiting shared his experience by writing this poem, basing the description of the power and fury of the sea in Psalm 107. It is not known if the poem helped the nervous student but within a year it had become a hymn and sailed into the influential first edition of Hymns A & M of 1861.

Another clergyman, John B Dykes, wrote the music. He was already a successful composer, with 300 hymns to his name. John Dykes named this tune 'Melita, after an old name for Malta, where St Paul was once shipwrecked. The hymn soon became a favourite with the Royal Navy and the US Navy. Other Services adapted it, including the Royal Marines, the RAF, the British Army and the US Coast Guard. It was the favourite hymn of President Franklin Roosevelt, who was Secretary of the Navy during the Second World War. In 1963, 'Eternal Father' was played by the Navy Band as President John F Kennedy's body was carried up the steps to the US Capitol to lie in state.



## Tamar Concert Choir

This is a final reminder that the Tamar Concert Choir will be performing here in Eggbuckland Church next Saturday, 21st July at 7.30pm. Tickets costing £5 are



available or it will be possible to pay at the door on the night. Proceeds in aid of church projects.

## Milk Bottle Tops

A number of parishioners have saved plastic milk bottle tops, reluctant to simply 'throw them away.' Some have been used in handicraft work and making Christmas decorations and there have been various schemes for recycling them



which included a shop in Saltash saving the tops to raise funds for the purchase of wheel chair and Goosewell School at Plymstock sending them to France for a similar worthy cause.

However, widespread enquiries have failed to reveal a current scheme although a small firm near



Kingsbridge uses the tops in the manufacture of plastic fencing, etc. They do not accept them direct from donors as they say the tops have to be processed first (whatever that might entail) and so at present the only means of disposal is the green recycling bin. Plymouth City Council has confirmed this to be an acceptable practice and presumably the tops ultimately get a second use.

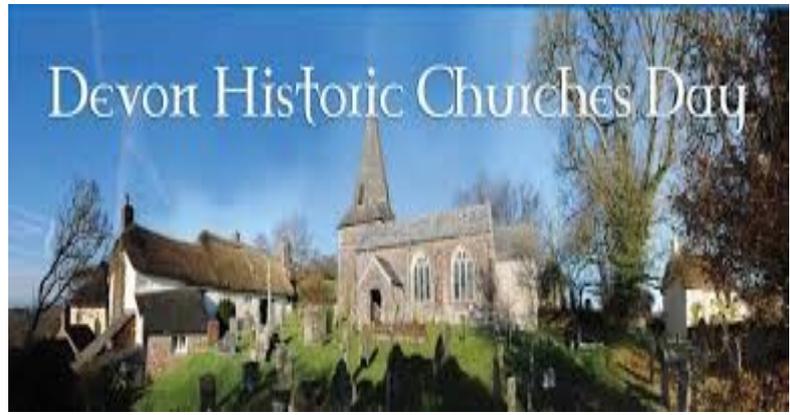


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## Devon Historic Churches Trust

This year the DHC Trust's annual Open Day and 'Ride & Stride' fundraising day is on Saturday, 8th September. Our church has benefited from a grant in the past from the Trust and we did support the fundraising some years ago. Our Parochial Church Council has decided that St Edward's can be open on the 8th September, available for any riders or striders to visit during the day and for anyone else who may wish to drop in. It is intended that refreshments will be available and some other appropriate activity that the Churchwardens may arrange.



## Share Prayer Dates

Advance notification has been received from Lynda Holmes of the forthcoming dates when the Share Prayer: Women's Prayer and Fellowship Group will be meeting. The dates are 19th September, 17th October and



21st November (all Wednesdays) and the meetings are from 7-8.30pm in St Edward's Church with entry via the Vestry entrance door.



## Only Joking!

Two brothers aged seven and nine were always getting into trouble. Having tried everything to get them to behave, their parents decided as a last resort to contact a fire and brimstone preacher who had experienced some success in dealing with wayward children. The preacher agreed to help and asked to see the boys individually. First he called in the seven-year-old, sat him down and asked sternly, "Where is God?" The boy didn't answer, so the preacher repeated the question, this time more forcefully, "Where is God?" Again the boy made no attempt to answer, so the cleric started shouting and waving his finger in the boy's face. "Where is God?" At that, the boy ran from the room and met up with his older brother outside. "What happened," asked the nine-year-old. The younger boy replied: "We're in big trouble this time. God is missing and they think we did it."

