



*We can't bring you GRAPEVINE but we  
can bring you an Offshoot*

# Welcome

Summer 2023



*Poynton Parish Church*

From the Vicarage

The sun is shining

During August our services remain at usual times - and we'll be looking at various Psalms together. If you are in Poynton, make gathering together a priority.

### **Keswick Convention**

A number of us were away at the Keswick Convention last week - I'd encourage you to think about attending next year! And as a taster for next few week's I'll be signposting some seminars and talks you might want to take a look at.

This week two seminars and an evening celebration:

Mark Greene talking about 'Humans in the Divine Plan: The Big Picture' .

Anne Zaki preaching at an evening celebration 'Who we are in Christ: Redeemed'. (will begin at the start of the celebration)

Particularly for those who are retired - John Wyatt speaking on 'Running the final lap'

### **Roadworks!**

There are planned roadworks (resurfacing) for both London Road North (this Sunday) and London Road South (next Sunday - 20th). If you drive to church, do check your route, and road closures at [one.network](http://one.network)

### **Holiday Club and Back to Church BBQ**

A reminder that Holiday Club is running from 29th August-1st September - and there are still spaces for primary aged children.

On **Sunday 3rd September** we'll be gathering together for a BBQ after the morning services - up at St Martin's field! More details soon...

Our world longs to live well, and we find in God direction and strength for such a life!

Also, this edition marks the last 'Offshoot', which took over from 'Grapevine' when the Covid-19 pandemic struck. We are working on a new regular way of keeping congregations and friends up-to-date with what is happening in the life of St George's. I'd like to record my thanks to Pat Robbie and Susan Warrington who have both worked so hard for a number of years on these different magazines. They have shown real concern for our community and commitment to keeping us connected; high lighting some of the great things that happen throughout the years! Many thanks, too, for all who have contributed stories, reports and photos – sharing together in the goodness of God in calling us to be part of his family!

Yours in Christ,

**Matthew**

**PLEASE PRAY FOR:**



***These who have recently received a Thanksgiving:***

9th July 2023 Annie Rose Coleman

***These who have recently been married :***

27<sup>th</sup> May Joe Benjamin Mercer & Katherine Anne Blake  
17<sup>th</sup> June David William Sibson & Linda Mary Stoddart Evans

***The family and friends of those who have recently died:***

3rd February	Beryl Ruth Russell	aged 93 years
5th February	Nigel Vogler	aged 80 years
26th February	Theresa Margaret Allen	aged 91 years
26th February	Ian Alexander Wallace	aged 80 years
3rd March	Luca Jay Blaine	aged 21 days
13th March	Joan Vickers	aged 101 years
14th March	Florence Mary Nelson	aged 94 years
21st March	Gwen Wood	aged 91 years
23rd March	Hilary Carrington	aged 77 years
28th March	Carol Ann Fish	aged 77 years
9th April	Hilda Burgess	aged 88 years
1st May	Brian John Williams	aged 75 years
2nd May	Brian Decker	aged 83 years
13th May	Adrienne May Bowles	aged 89 years
14th May	Rodney Terence Mellor	aged 83 years
22nd May	Anne Rose Shaw	aged 84 years
3rd June	Jean Leveson	aged 90 years
6th June	Teresa Mary Hopkins	aged 87 years
13th June	Michelle McCabe	aged 43 years
14th June	Iris Harris	aged 85 years
7th July	Trevor Alan Wood	aged 71 years
15th July	Violet Evans	aged 90 years

**Friends of St George’s**

The Friends exist to support the Church in preserving and improving the buildings and the graveyard in ways which will improve or enhance them. Members may be members of the congregation or any other residents of Poynton, particularly those who may have a connection such as a wedding or a family grave here.

The Friends usually plan a programme of events, some here in Poynton and some further afield, and any profits enable us provide, or plan, additions for improvement at the request of the PCC or of smaller groups such as the Bellringers or the Choir. Recently we have purchased a new altar frontal and also two planters as a gift to Living Well as a result of a generous donation in memory of David Wrigley.

A coach was booked to take us to the Mystery Plays in Chester Cathedral in July and thirty seven people took advantage of the opportunity to see this presentation of the Mediaeval street plays, only performed every five years .

In August there will be another coach trip; to the seaside this time where Lytham St Anne's will be having a 1940s weekend along the front. All these events are open to everybody whether members or not and all will be most welcome.

If you are interested in hearing more about the Friends and meeting members do speak to a member of the Committee. Committee members elected at the AGM in June are Marie Bennett, Glyn Derbyshire, Margaret Goode, Alice Lees, Sandra Sharpe, Eileen Shore, Geoff and Judith Smith and Susan Warrington.



*Susan Warrington*

Dear Friends,

I've just returned from a week at the Keswick Convention, along with others from St George's. If you don't know, 'Keswick' has held a Christian convention each summer for one hundred and forty-eight years – and this year across three weeks more than 12,000 people attended the Convention. In the week we were there this including 900 children. The overall theme was 'Human' – what does it mean to be human, to live on this earth, recognising our frailty and the brokenness of our world and the promise of a new heavens and new earth.

As the author, and Keswick speaker, Ros Clarke puts it: "Being human is complicated! Our bodies, intellects and emotions are all God-given gifts, but we so often find them in varying states of disorder. How then, can we become the full bearers of God's image that we were made to be?"

In fact, questions of identity, of belonging and purpose for us as humans are constantly on our tv and cinema screens, the themes of plays and articles – and if we are honest the theme of many of our meaningful conversations. This includes those of all ages – and conversations between the ages too!

The themes are seen clearly in the two big summer movies – Barbie and Oppenheimer – very different stories, but exploring identity, purpose and belonging.

Understanding our place in the world as those loved by God, not accidents or random collections of DNA or even just spirits, makes a real difference to our future hopes and our present choices. Can I encourage you to look at your life through the lens of Christian faith – all aspects of life – and seek to live in the light of that relationship offered to us in Jesus? Perhaps you don't find it easy to talk about such things; do ask a trusted friend or contact one of the team here at church.

Our world longs to live well, and we find in God direction and strength for such a life!

Yours in Christ,

Matthew

## Rock the Boat Holiday Club

Tuesday 29th August - Friday 1st September

10 am - 12.30 pm

St George's Church & Hall

Four mornings of fun, games, songs, craft and Bible stories for children aged 5–11. Cost £5 per child - booking essential.

Please book via Church Suite or contact the office.



## Back to Church BBQ

Sunday 3rd September - 12.30 pm

Do join us for food and fellowship at our annual Back to Church BBQ. Please book your place via Church Suite or contact the office.

## Heritage Open Day Saturday 16th September 10 am - 3 pm

The Friends of St George's and our Bellringers are opening the church and bell tower as part of the national Heritage Open Days.

Do pop in and take a look.



## Summer Fun

At the end of July we had the family fun day at St Martin's, which was great fun. We got to go down big inflatable slides, play games such as Giant Chess and Giant snakes and ladders. Plus we got to make sand art - this was fun but did make a mess in the car afterwards-oops! We enjoyed a yummy ice cream from Just Ice - I had cookie dough. The weather stayed dry-but the chairs sunk in the grass and Grandpa nearly fell over, which made us laugh

I was then lucky enough to jet set off to soggy Filey to Sandiley camp! I had the BEST time. We camped for 8 nights - the weather wasn't kind to us, but it didn't stop the fun. We played competition games, four balls, hunt the leader and dodge ball. We went on day trips to Flamingoland and swimming in Bridlington. Every night we had an evening meeting, which had a talk, singing and games. Plus we had seminars and tent prayer times during the day. I made lots of new friends from all over the country and learned about the armour of God. I can't wait to go back next year. I'm looking forward to Holiday club at the end of August! Hope you are enjoying the summer!

*Josh MacLennan*



## Offshoot

As this edition of Offshoot will be the last in its present format I would like especially to thank Pat Robbie, who has been the most helpful and creative partner in its production, not only in this Covid version of a Church magazine but in our original Grapevine. I have pulled together all sorts of material over the years and sometimes she may have been doubtful of its value or suitability but has usually agreed to type it up and often found an appropriate illustration too!

There are many who have agreed to report or write up events for us and heartfelt thank-yous go to them all. They all know who they are and those who said yes and produced them on time deserve special thanks!! Thanks too to the office Staff and distributors whose help has been timely and hopefully will remain so as we try to produce a more readily available means of communication with the congregation and beyond.

We have all been conscious that it has not reached as many people as we would have wished during the recent unsettled years and now that we have more freedom this will be the last in this present format. We hope this will be welcome especially to those who don't have electronic communication means! Look out for the new Pick Me Up ..... And do just that! Whatever it's called!

*Susan Warrington*

## Confirmation Service

**Sunday 1st October, 6.30 pm, St Mary's Church, Cheadle**

Confirmation is a chance to publicly make or renew the promises to follow Jesus which you made - or which were made for you—at your Baptism.

Confirmation can also be a way of saying that you have found a spiritual home at St George's and St Martin's, within the Church of England.

There will be relaxed preparation sessions in September for those thinking about being confirmed. Please speak to a member of clergy if you're interested in finding out more.

## Who Does what?

### Jenny Cooke meets Sarka Roberts, our Parish Officer Manager, and Mike Batty, our Administration Assistant



For the past 18 months Sarka Roberts has worked in St George's Church Office. She was appointed after Lucy Carman left to take up another post. 'I've known Lucy since we were two Mums at the schools gates,' says Sarka. 'One day I happened to meet Lucy who was rushing out of Waitrose with some chocolates to take into work. It was her last day at her church administration job.' Once Sarka got home she texted Lucy to find out about the job and decided to apply. 'I'd been looking for a change of direction with better terms and I'd done office work before.' So it was that Sarka was interviewed and got the job.

Up till then Sarka was self-employed in a Carer role, doing cleaning, shopping and caring for several people over 90, which fitted well with her family duties. Today she works in the Office 9:00am – 1:00pm and then carries on with her Carer job with some of these same people in the afternoons.

When Lucy left she gave Sarka a Manual which itemised daily, weekly, and monthly jobs. 'This has been very helpful but no two days are the same,' says Sarka. 'Some are busier than others.' Sarka supports the clergy for funerals and weddings and is the contact point for everyone involved. There's plenty to do: tickets for events, posters, seasonal activities, answering emails and passing on messages. She does photocopying, invoicing, paperwork for the many groups, answering the phone, knows all about Fire drills and Health and Safety. She's the 'face of the church' to strangers who ring up. 'I'm learning new things all the time,' she says, 'and Mike and Jennie help me with any church knowledge I need.' She can keep her finger on the pulse of this activity and often feels like a link between all the different people. It's important that she knows each day where people are in the building and she keeps an up-to-date register of them all.

Sarka originally came to Poynton in January 2002 from the Czech Republic as an au pair, with a family in Adlington. She knew no English and when her family kept telling her that they'd be eating roast dog on the Sunday, Sarka felt petrified. 'Imagine my relief when I realised it was roast **duck**,' she laughs. She quickly settled down here, and made friends, one of whom was David, whom Sarka eventually married. They now have three sons, 19, 15 and 12 and have lived in Poynton ever since, which they love. 'There is a lovely wider family in Poynton and they've welcomed me with open arms.'

'What I love is the happy atmosphere in the Office,' she says. 'We enjoy each other's company. Indeed the best thing about the job is the people. I don't mind the interruptions and I love the Retired lunches!'

Cont. from previous page

**Mike Batty** has worked in the office since the beginning of 2022, including Friday mornings. 'My most important duty,' he says with a twinkle in his eye, 'is my responsibility for keeping the biscuits and other provisions replenished in the kitchen for coffees and teas for during the week and especially for Sundays!'

Initially he was looking after the bookings and administration for the Halls of St George's and St Martin's. He's also responsible for the monthly paper news-sheet; for collating the slides for use during both the services each week and for the welcome notices on the big screen at St G's before services. No two mornings of work are the same and he's realised that there's a weekly, monthly, and even yearly pattern of work and bookings. 'Some weeks it's invoicing, some enquiries,' he says. 'It varies.'

He worked on the big project with Hannah Brackenbury for the new **Who's Who Booklet**. He also helped to set up and launch the Church Suite. 'I've always been interested in 'techy' stuff and the internet,' he says. 'I have two older brothers and they are very keen on it all. So I just followed in their footsteps!' He knows that not everyone feels comfortable with technology and is happy to help those who need a hand with it.

But for Mike the best thing about working in the Office is the people. 'It's the people who make it for me,' he says, 'Being part of the church and the church family. That's the best.'

Sarka has the last word. 'People in the locality sometimes ring up about the squirrels and the church bells. But I love the bells. They are a good constant. They tell me that whatever's happening out there, the world is going forward as usual. All is well.'

Mike Batty - Administration Assistant: [bookings@poyntonparishchurch.org](mailto:bookings@poyntonparishchurch.org) Tel:879277

Sarka Roberts - Parish Office Manager: [office@poyntonparishchurch.org](mailto:office@poyntonparishchurch.org) Tel: 879277



Jenny Cooke

## “Here Lies”

Hi Brian,

Thank you so much for finding Herbert’s plot – that’s very much appreciated – and thank you so much for helping find the grave of Sam and Ann Fletcher.

Long story short, in the process of doing family history research I discovered that not only were Sam and Ann my fourth Great Grandparents but through the use of DNA I was able to establish that many of his children and grandchildren left Poynton with upwards of 50 other locals, around 1860, and migrated to Belleville, Illinois, mainly to work in the coal mines there.

Through mutual interest in family history – and DNA connections - I’m in contact with several American born descendants of the people that migrated and yesterday – my 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> cousins.

After we found the grave, I was due to meet one such distant relative for lunch at Panache. He added a stop in Poynton on his European travels so we could meet up and I could show him where his ancestors originated from.

Thanks to your efforts I was able to show him the grave – Sam and Ann are his 3<sup>rd</sup> Great Grandparents - along with a few others of related families (Adam Wainwright and Eliza Ward not the least)

Overall a good, moving day all around – so thank you.

Kind regards.

*Mike Wainwright*

*A good opportunity to pay tribute to the work of Alan Goode and Russ Pattinson who spent so much time checking and plotting the graveyard records; such a help in cases like this.*



*Susan Warrington*



**Save the Date - Friday 6th October - 10 am - 12 noon - Church Hall - Marie Curie Coffee Morning**

There will be a raffle, bring & buy and coffee, tea, cake and biscuits. If you have any prizes for the raffle/bring and buy, I am usually at the church hall on a Wednesday morning doing Bright Stars from 9 - 10.45 am or alternatively you could ring me on 876718 and I will collect (I live at 33 Milton Drive). Donations of cakes would be greatly appreciated for the event.

*Carol Armitage*



## The Secret Life of Parish Hikers.

Saturday is 'lie in' day, but not today. Well before 2006 (though that is the year we started), the frantic activity of making sandwiches and a flask, together with some cake if I'm allowed, gets underway.

We set off in the car. Have you got my socks? No I thought you had them? I've even arrived and undergone the embarrassment of having left my wife's hiking boots behind, it's always my fault !



How wonderful it is to take time out and go for a decent hike where we have time to get away from the hustle and bustle and meet new people, make friends, talk about various issues and solve the world's problems, well mine anyway! It's also an opportunity to bring family and friends who perhaps don't come to our churches, or any church, a way of outreach perhaps.

Off we go in car convoy but for some reason one or two of us must have used a zig zag pattern (to avoid enemy detection) as they don't turn up when expected. More frantic activity as we trace mobile numbers or one of us drives off in hot pursuit of a passing car we're sure was them but isn't. By some miracle we all eventually arrive and spend the next ten minutes hopping around a car park trying to put socks on to feet we can't seem to reach anymore.

Did you know that walking is one of the best keep fit activities there is. It gets the heart pumping faster and makes you realise you've got muscles you didn't know you had. Pretty well every muscle in the body is at work as we walk over uneven ground and push each other over styles whether they want to go over or not. I think it must exercise the soul too because we're blessed with splendid views we had forgotten were there to enjoy. Somehow the changing weather manages to cast different shades of light over the hill side, sun streaming through gaps in the cloud like an alien ray beaming down from a flying saucer. You see one can let the imagination run wild when one is surrounded by nature's beauty, and that's another part of us exercised. In our comfy home environment perhaps we forget what it's like to feel some rain on our faces but the breeze is invigorating and there's a sense of really feeling alive. Sat eating lunch in the warming sun, how good life can be.

They're a strange lot these walkers, myself excepted of course, so why not join us and find out what it's like, and bring a friend, a family member perhaps, maybe your dog or friendly ferret. We find 6 to 8 miles is enough and nothing too difficult to tackle.



Do give me a call and ask to be put on the email list for walk updates and related information or just let us know you want to come. 9:30 to 10am, Church Hall, second Saturday each month.

Dave Markham Tel 876226, Email [dmacoustics@hotmail.com](mailto:dmacoustics@hotmail.com)

## Cloverley Hall: 23rd to 25th June 2023

About 70 of our church family arrived at Cloverley near Whitchurch on the Friday afternoon in brilliant sunshine, which continued throughout the weekend until we left to drive home when some of us faced heavy rain driving back on the motorway. But the late rain didn't dampen our spirits following a brilliant weekend of teaching, worship, fellowship and fun.

Antony Billington led the adults sessions on Romans 12 with a mixture of inspirational teaching and group discussion for reflection. He asked us to focus on three elements of his talks:

1. - what shines out from the passage
2. ? - raised from the passage
3. - implication of the passage for our own lives and for church life.

The worship was led by very talented musicians Alison and Matthew, friends of Hannah. Cerys and her friend Amelia led the children's sessions on Daniel and during the Sunday Communion service they brilliantly showed us what they had done.

Cloverley Hall was an amazing centre with an interesting history. It included a swimming pool, games room, several reception rooms to relax in and large gardens to wander or play in. We were well catered for with good and plentiful food.

On Saturday afternoon there were a range of activities from swimming, rounders and walks or just spending time relaxing and chatting to friends and on Saturday evening Matthew and Kate challenged us with a fun quiz.

A big thank you to Hannah for her excellent organisation. Hopefully we will be able to repeat the weekend sometime in the future.

*Gill Golding*

### **Mystery Plays**

Perhaps some key words such as: Amazing; awe-inspiring; moving; colourful; touching; funny and wonderfully inclusive will do for starters? 37 people went to see the Mystery Plays in the Cathedral in July and were inspired by the commitment of the entirely amateur cast. The experience was one to treasure as this will not happen again in Chester for five years! Speechless sums it up perhaps?! SO glad I was there.

*Susan Warrington*

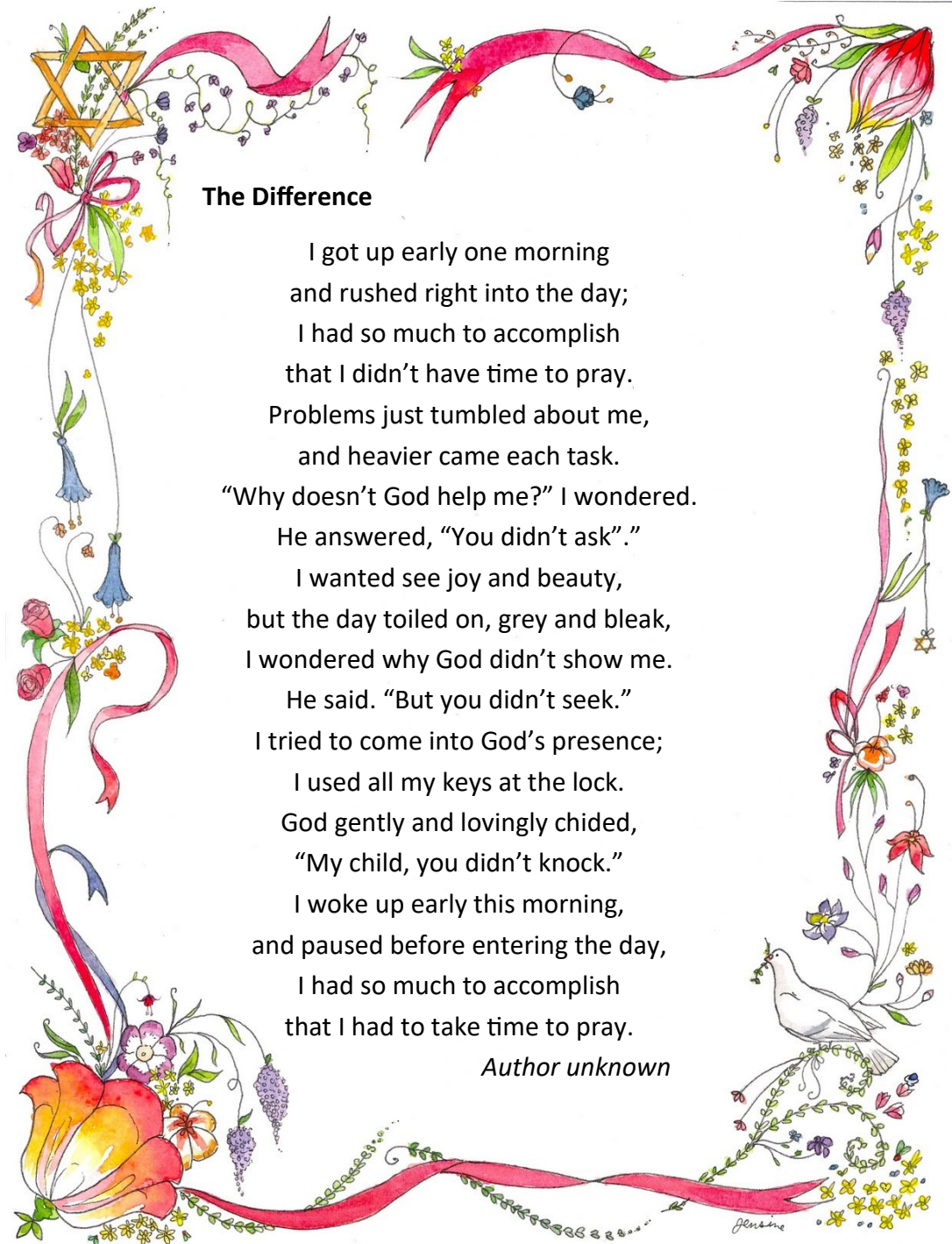
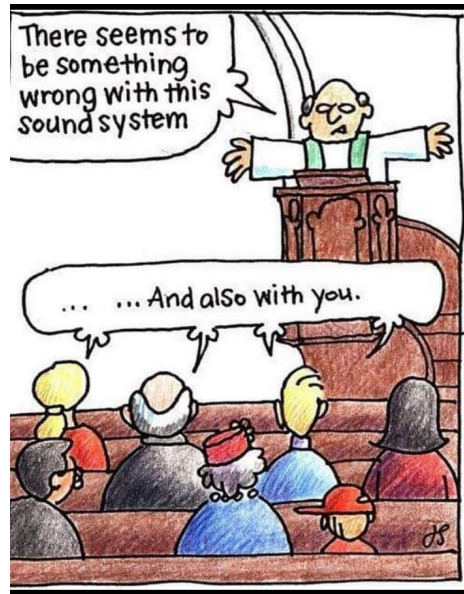


## Prayer

O Lord, we pray to give us of Thy strength, that we may live more bravely and faithfully for the sake of those who are no longer with us on earth, in whose lives we have seen something of Thy glory and beauty.

Grant us so to serve Thee day by day that we may find eternal fellowship with them, through Him who died and rose again for us all.

Amen



## The Difference

I got up early one morning  
and rushed right into the day;  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I didn't have time to pray.  
Problems just tumbled about me,  
and heavier came each task.  
"Why doesn't God help me?" I wondered.  
He answered, "You didn't ask".  
I wanted see joy and beauty,  
but the day toiled on, grey and bleak,  
I wondered why God didn't show me.  
He said. "But you didn't seek."  
I tried to come into God's presence;  
I used all my keys at the lock.  
God gently and lovingly chided,  
"My child, you didn't knock."  
I woke up early this morning,  
and paused before entering the day,  
I had so much to accomplish  
that I had to take time to pray.

*Author unknown*

## “What a difference one letter can make”

Are you Going Abroad this Year? How much of the language of the place do you know? The following examples may (or may not) be actually useful but are quite entertaining!

RESPONDEZ S'IL VOUS PLAID

HARLEZ-VOUS FRANCAIS?

VENI, VIPI, VICI

POSH MORTEM

HASTE CUISINE

PLUS CA CHARGE

ACHTUNA

Honk if you're Scottish

Can you drive a French motorcycle?

I came, I'm a very important person, I conquered

Death styles of the rich and famous

Fast French Food

My Visa has run out

Look at the fish

