



# Connections

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May 16 to 31  
2019

*A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another as I have loved you. John 13: 34*



On May 30 the church remembers the Ascension of Jesus, which ended his earthly presence. It was a mysterious event, which took place 40 days after the Resurrection, and it

ushered in a new era at Pentecost. The apostles had been trying to understand what was expected of them, as one confusing day followed another. First the cheering crowds as Jesus entered Jerusalem, then those same crowds shouting 'Crucify him!' and the horrifying trial and that black day of death. When all seemed lost, Resurrection! And a time of renewed companionship with their risen Lord, learning from him about the kingdom of God, walking with him, sharing a meal of fish with him by the seashore. Now he told them that they were to take his message to the ends of the earth. These ordinary men, not learned scholars, were to teach and preach and heal as he did. But he assured them that they were not going to do it alone. They would soon receive the gift of the power of the Holy Spirit to enable them to carry out their mission.

As they watched, a cloud took him out of their sight and he disappeared. They never saw him again. But they did receive the Holy Spirit, and they did take his message to the ends of the earth, and they did change the world. Alleluia!

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## COMING SOON

It's not just coming soon - softball season is here already! And last year's champion Christ Church/St. Bede team is ready to repeat their great performance, with their parishes cheering them on to victory. They will play every Tuesday at 7 pm (weather permitting) at various diamonds in our area. Locations are not yet final, but we will keep you posted.



The trees are budding, daffodils are blooming, and it's Spring Cleanup time at Christ Church! If you want to be part of bringing our church home to its



sparkling best, talk to Wardens Eleanor Lorde or Brian Carr or see Ken Pestill. The date has not yet been set, but they will let you know when your energy will be needed.

Our information in the last *Connections* about Christ Church's presence at Trilogy Long Term Care Residence was not quite accurate. There are two memorial services a year, one in May and the other in November. The regular Evensong is on the first Tuesday of each month, except in July and August..





*May 31 - The Church remembers  
Mary's visit to Elizabeth*

Any woman who has traveled while pregnant can tell you that it isn't fun. For Mary, the trip must have been especially difficult. She traveled to a town 80 miles away, likely uncomfortably on a donkey, without any paved roads or air conditioning or shock absorbers.

Mary has been told by an angel that she is pregnant by the power of the Holy Spirit and that her child is the Son of God. She has also learned that her cousin Elizabeth, believed to be too old to conceive, is expecting as well. Her son will be known in history as John the Baptist.

Mary must have needed desperately to talk to a woman who could understand her excitement and wonder. Spending some quiet time with Elizabeth, while awaiting the birth of her child, was an opportunity to come to terms with the miraculous event that would fill her life with great joy and much sorrow.

And so on May 31 the church honours Mary, the god-bearer, an ordinary young woman who became the mother of the Messiah, our Redeemer and our Saviour.

## THE BIRTHDAY OF THE BUDDHA

There is no more important day in the Buddhist calendar than Vesak, the day on which it is believed that a child named Siddhartha Gautama was born to a powerful chieftain in the sixth century before Christ in what is now Nepal. Vesak Day this year is celebrated in Canada on May 18.

Gautama grew up in luxury with little knowledge of the outside world, married and had a son. One day when he was in his late twenties, he ventured out of the palace and saw the real world for the first time. He saw that people suffer disease and poverty. They know fear and they die.

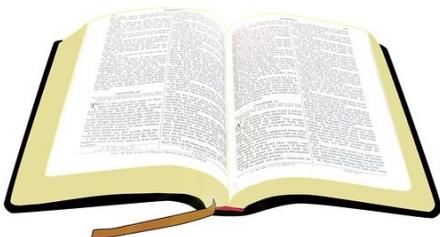
He was deeply troubled by what he had seen, and searched different spiritual teachings for many years, finding nothing to satisfy his longing for truth. Then he spent a night which would change his life. After hours of deep meditation, all the answers he had been seeking became clear to him. He became fully aware and abandoned his former life to spend the next 45 years as an ascetic, giving up all luxuries, living simply and teaching others the principles on which he was basing his new life. He was known from then as the Buddha, or the Enlightened One.

On Vesak Day our Buddhist neighbours will decorate their temples with flowers and flags. Candles and incense will be placed at the feet of the statues. Acts of generosity and prayers for peace will be offered as part of the Vesak tradition.

It is a time of joy and celebration for the whole family.



*Buddhist monks in procession*



*Scripture readings for May 19:* Acts 11:1-18;  
Psalm 148; Revelation 21: 1-6; John 13: 31-35

*Readings for May 26:* Acts 16: 9-15; Psalm 67;  
Revelation 21: 10 and 22: 5; John 14: 23-29

# GREAT THEOLOGIANS OF THE EARLY CHURCH

Some of the most influential theologians of the Christian church lived in the first millennium of the Common Era, and their teachings still form the foundation of many of our current doctrines. Three of these are commemorated by the church in May. Here is a brief account of their histories.

In 354 **Saint Augustine of Hippo** (original name Aurelius Augustinus) was born in what is now Algeria to Roman African parents. After his baptism and conversion to Christianity he

*You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you.*

*Augustine of Hippo*

developed his own approach to philosophy and theology, accommodating a variety of methods and

perspectives. His thoughts profoundly influenced the medieval worldview. As perhaps the most significant Christian thinker after St. Paul, Augustine created a theological system of great power and lasting influence. His written works, the most important of which are *Confessions* and *The City of God*, shaped the practice of biblical interpretation and helped lay the foundation for much of modern Christian thought.

The **Venerable Bede** was born in 672 in what is now Durham in England. He evidently came from a noble family and was sent to be educated at a monastery at the age of seven. There he decided to become a solitary priest and spent most of his life within its walls as one of the foremost Anglo-Saxon theologians and historians. He



is best known for his greatest work "Ecclesiastical History of the English People". This book is the origin of our way of dating events as happening before and after the year of Jesus' incarnation (B.C. and A.D.)

**Saint Dunstan's** ministry was lived among the nobility of England. He was born about 909 to a Wessex nobleman and, after being educated at Abbey of Glastonbury and a brief stint at the

royal court, decided to live a simple life in a hut he built beside the abbey. This didn't last long, as he was made the abbot of the m o n a s t e r y .

Eventually he became Bishop of Worcester and then Archbishop of Canterbury.

Advisor to kings and encourager of scholarship and the monastic life,



**Glastonbury Abbey**

Dunstan is also remembered as the person who altered the coronation ceremony to put emphasis on the bond between church and monarch, making the coronation a sacred act of consecration. It is the basis of the British coronation ceremony to this day.

## Miscellaneous May Milestones

May 19, 1971 *Godspell*, a musical based on the Gospel of Matthew, opens at the Cherry Lane Theater in New York City. (It is safe to say that, as you read this, *Godspell* is still playing somewhere in the world.)



May 20, 325 The Council of Nicaea convenes the first ecumenical council of the Church, attended by nearly 300 bishops. The Council was called by Emperor Constantine, who seeks to establish peace and unity in the Christian Church.



May 23, 1955 The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the United States announces that it will permit the ordination to the priesthood of female clergy. (It took until 1975 for the Anglican Church of Canada to do the same thing.)



**We are asked to pray for our brothers and sisters in Christ: Viggy, Annet, Carol, Barb, Cathy, Cheryl-Anne and her family, Dushy, Anne, Joan, John, Corinne.**