

# REID ON...

REID MEMORIAL CHURCH MAGAZINE



**MAY** 2019



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# FROM OUR MINISTER



## **DEAR FRIENDS,**

**In Korea there is a legend about a native warrior who died and went to heaven.** 'Before I enter,' he said to the gatekeeper, 'I would like you to take me on a tour of hell.'

The gatekeeper found a guide to take the warrior to hell. When he got there he was astonished to see a great table piled high with the choicest foods. But the people in hell were starving. The warrior turned to his guide and raised his eyebrows. 'It's this way,' the guide explained. 'Everybody who comes here is given a pair of chopsticks five feet long, and is required to hold them at the end to eat. But you just can't eat with chopsticks five feet long if they hold them at the end. Look at them. They miss their mouths every time?' The visitor agreed that this was hell indeed and asked to be taken to heaven as quickly as possible.

In heaven, to his surprise, he saw a similar room, with a similar table laden with very choice foods. But the people were happy; they looked radiantly happy. The visitor turned to his guide, 'No chopsticks, I suppose?' he said. 'Oh yes,' said the guide, 'they have the same chopsticks, the same length, and they must be held at the end just as in hell. But you see, these people have learned that if a man feeds his neighbour, his neighbour will feed him.'

This is an old legend, one that you may have come across before, but its message is as relevant today as ever. Christian Aid week falls within the month of May when we are called to share what we have with those who have not. In the gospel of Luke chapter 6 v 38 Jesus says this, 'Give, and gifts will be given you. Good measure, pressed and shaken down and running over, will be poured into your lap, for whatever measure you deal out to others will be dealt to you in return'. As Jesus came not to be served but to serve so by his spirit we are called to follow his example.

On 19th May we look forward very much to welcoming Mary Mulligan from Christian Aid [see page 16], who will tell us more about the very valuable work they are doing, serving others with our help.

Every blessing, **ALEX**

# SERVICES



All services will be conducted by Rev. Alex Douglas

Sunday 5th May 11:15am

**MORNING WORSHIP**

Sunday 12th May 11:15am

**MORNING WORSHIP**

Sunday 19th May 11:15am

**MORNING WORSHIP** [Christian Aid Week Speaker Mary Mulligan]

Sunday 26th May 11:15am

**MORNING WORSHIP**



## FLOWERS IN CHURCH



### DATE

**5th MAY**

**12th MAY**

**19th MAY**

**26th MAY**

**2nd JUNE**

**9th JUNE**

**16th JUNE**

**23rd JUNE**

**20th JUNE**

### DISTRIBUTORS

Miss E Browne

Mr & Mrs Beckett

Mr & Mrs Beckett

M Reid & M Hunter

Miss A MacLeod

Miss E Browne

Mr & Mrs Dalziel

Mrs K Russell

Mrs M Houston

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Sylvia Ritchie

Alice Schaupp

Irene Cato

Alison MacLeod

Jessie Fitzsimmons

Mary Marrs

Irene Cato

John Craik

Alice Schaupp

# ALL IN THE MONTH OF **MAY**



**IT WAS 500 YEARS AGO**, on 2nd May 1519 that Leonardo Da Vinci, the Italian artist, scientist and inventor, died.

**200 YEARS AGO**, on 24th May 1819 that Queen Victoria was born. (She reigned from 1837 to 1901)

**175 YEARS AGO**, on 3rd May 1844 that Richard D'Oyly Carte, British theatrical impresario, was born. He built the Savoy Theatre and the Palace Theatre in London, managed some of the most important theatrical stars of the era, and founded a touring opera company.

**125 YEARS AGO**, on 21st May 1894 that the Manchester Ship Canal was officially opened.

**100 YEARS AGO**, on 18th May 1919 that Dame Margot Fonteyn, British ballerina, was born. (Died 1991)

**80 YEARS AGO**, on 25th May 1939 that Sir Frank Dyson, Astronomer Royal of England and Scotland, died. His observations of the 1919 solar eclipse helped prove Einstein's theory of relativity. He also introduced the Greenwich Time Signal ('pips').

**65 YEARS AGO**, on 6th May 1954 that in Oxford, British athlete Roger Bannister became the first person to run a mile in under four minutes. (Three minutes, 59.4 seconds)

**40 YEARS AGO**, on 3rd May 1979 that the British General Election was won by the Conservative Party, and Margaret Thatcher became Britain's first female prime minister.

**25 YEARS AGO**, on 6th May 1994 that the Channel Tunnel linking England and France was officially opened.

**ALSO 25 YEARS AGO**, on 10th May 1994 that Nelson Mandela was inaugurated as South Africa's first black President after many years of white rule.

**20 YEARS AGO**, on 6th May 1999 that the first general elections for the Scottish Parliament and the National Assembly for Wales took place. Donald Dewar became First Minister of Scotland and Alun Michael became First Secretary for Wales.

# REID THURSDAY CLUB

## AIR TRANSPORT AUXILIARY

It was with great pleasure that I attended a talk at the Thursday Club about women pilots in the Air Transport Auxiliary. This civilian group, formed during the last war, contained 166 women pilots from South America to Poland among about 2,300 men. One of the men had only one eye and one arm but was still accepted. Training was minimal and pilots could fly anything from Spitfires to four engine bombers, ferrying new and repaired aircrafts to wherever they were needed.

Surprisingly there was no radio contact with the ground and flying blind, even with instruments was banned. Initially women's pay was lower than that of men but by their own efforts parity was achieved in 1943. Efforts to force women to wear skirts rather than trousers while flying were successfully resisted, although the restriction applied on the ground.

To the obvious enjoyment of the audience, the speaker, Mr Roy Johnstone, gave an extremely well researched and presented talk. Tales ranged from the courageous to the humorous and the hour flew by. Well done, Mr Johnstone! These relatively unknown, unsung heroines deserve our gratitude and praise for their magnificent work during the last war.

Our thanks go to Alison Macleod and the committee for their work with the Thursday Club. It cannot be easy to obtain regular speakers to the standard of Mr Johnstone.

**BILL MACONACHIE** THURSDAY CLUB ATTENDEE

A Sunday school teacher asked her class, 'What was Jesus' mother's name?' One child answered that it was Mary.

The teacher then asked, 'Who knows what Jesus' father's name was?' A little boy said, 'Verge.' Confused, the teacher asked, 'Where did you get that?' The boy said, 'Well, you know, they are always talking about Verge n' Mary.'



## REID MEMORIAL AND CRAIGMILLAR PARK CHURCHES **WALK TOGETHER**

**On Sunday 12th April 2019, twenty four members of the Reid Memorial and Craigmillar Park congregations went for a walk.**

We met at the number 42 bus stop at the end of West Savile Terrace just after 2pm. The bus driver was a bit surprise as we boarded his bus, most of us with our over 60s bus passes. We happily chatted together before alighting the bus near Craigmillar Police Station. Our route took us along the Innocent Railway into Queen's Park. From there we made our way past the Commonwealth Swimming Pool onto Minto Street and then to Craigmillar Park Church.

A member of our group phoned ahead to Craigmillar Park Church to ensure that the kettle was boiling for a well-earned cuppa. We were made very welcome as was evident by the delicious home-baking that was provided. A most enjoyable afternoon was spent getting to know each other. Thanks go to the linkage group for organising this walk and we look forward to other similar events.

*'There is no exercise better for the heart than reaching down and lifting people up.'* John A Holmer

*'Christ was taken up into heaven, not to enjoy blessed rest at a distance from us, but to govern the world for the salvation of all believers.'* John Calvin

# AMAZING GRACE

JOHN NEWTON (1725 – 1807)

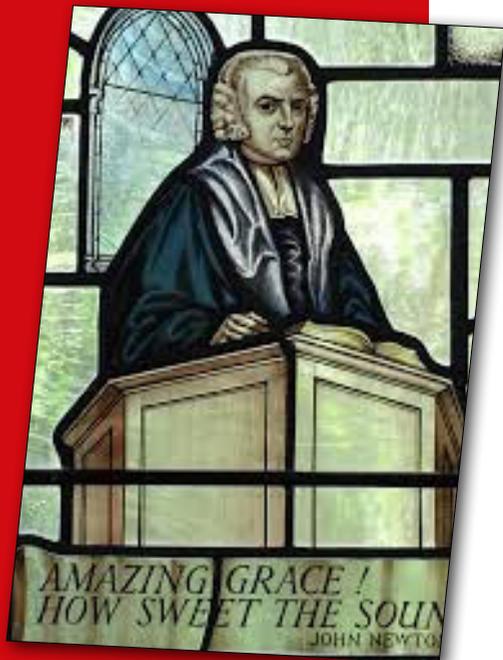
*Amazing Grace, how sweet the sound,  
That saved a wretch like me.*

*I once was lost but now am found,  
Was blind, but now I see.*

John Newton crammed a lot of living into his 82 years. His mother died when he was six years old, and he joined his father at sea when he was eleven. He served his apprenticeship as a sailor, and rose through the ranks until he became the captain of a slave ship. He abandoned the religious training that he had experienced as a child, and revelled in the dissolute life of a slave trader. He was noted for his profanity and his cruelty, and was even known as 'The Great Blasphemer'.

But one stormy night off the coast of Donegal, when his ship had been holed and was in danger of sinking, and he was in danger of drowning, Newton had a real change of heart. Newton called out to God as the ship filled with water. After he called out, the cargo flowed out and stopped up the hole, and the ship was able to drift to safety. It might have been his religious training at his mother's knee surfacing after all those years -- or it might have been his love for Mary Catlett, a Christian woman whom he later married -- or it might have been his reading of the book, *Imitation of Christ*, by William Law -- or it might have been all three. In any event, Newton had a real conversion experience. However, as he was to admit later, "I cannot consider myself to have been a believer, in the full sense of the word."

For a while, Newton continued on his slave ship, but he began to treat both the slaves and his crew with a good deal more compassion. Finally,



convinced that the slave trade was wrong, he left his ship and took a job onshore.

He then felt a call to the ministry, and was ordained at age forty and assigned to a church at Olney, Buckinghamshire. Newton wrote many hymns, including *How Sweet the Name of Jesus Sounds* and *Glorious Things of Thee are Spoken*, but he is best remembered for *Amazing Grace*, which is in a sense Newton's own story. It was amazing grace that saved him, and it was amazing grace that was the focus of his preaching.

He continued in ministry through the rest of his long life, even after failing eyesight made it impossible for him to read. Newton never ceased to be amazed by God's grace and, nearing the end of his life, told his friends, "My memory is nearly gone; but I remember two things: That I am a great sinner, and that Christ is a great Saviour."

# DOOR DUTIES



## 5th MAY

Sheila Capewell, Douglas Mathieson  
In charge: Elizabeth Mathieson  
*Welcome table: Joyce Rosie*

## 12th MAY

Anne Burgess, Geeta MacKay  
In charge: Stevie Douglas  
*Welcome table: Rose Mackenzie*

## 19th MAY

Gillian Brown, Jacky Harris  
In charge: Ian Beckett  
*Welcome table: Lesley Beckett*

## 26th MAY

Lindsay Wood, Suzanne Dalziel  
In charge: Alistair Dalziel  
*Welcome table: Alison Masson*

## 2nd JUNE

Mary Allan, Hazel Melrose  
In charge; Graham Annan  
*Welcome table; June Wylie*  
*Evening; Richard Black*

## 9th JUNE

Siobhan Gilliland, Joyce Rosie  
In charge; Stephen Thomson  
*Welcome table; Joyce Rosie*

## 16th JUNE

Graham Clark, Douglas Mathieson  
In charge; Elizabeth Mathieson  
*Welcome table; Alison Masson*

## 23rd JUNE

Diane Craik, Morag Reid  
In charge; Robin Jones  
*Welcome table; Ann Jones*

## 30th JUNE

Linda Farrer, Hazel Melrose  
In charge; Stevie Douglas  
*Welcome table; Rose Mackenzie*

# SECRECY

## GOOD OR BAD



**At a General Synod only a few years ago, the Church of England came up with guidelines for priests to follow for the protection of both priest and parishioner, but they do seem to clash somewhat with good pastoral practice.** For

instance, priests have now been told they shouldn't have a private interview with anyone unless there is someone else in the house. Some would go further, and insist that the door to the interview room is left open.

So it's easy to see why the new guidelines have been put in place. But they do seem to make a mockery of the concept of confidentiality. And what happens about visiting people in their own home? Does it mean that those who live alone may never receive a visit because of the new guidelines? Privacy and secrecy seem to have become suspect within our society. Secrecy is almost synonymous with guilt, with having something to hide. If there's nothing to hide, why the need for secrecy?

But that ignores the positive aspects of secrecy and its value. Until fairly recently it was taken for granted that some things were rightly and properly kept secret. And that hasn't changed. But in the last few years all that has begun to be questioned, and with the questioning has perhaps come the feeling that all secrecy is wrong.

The Bible has quite a lot to say about secrecy, and perhaps it picks up the difficulties we have with the concept, for even the Bible can be a little ambiguous on the subject. For instance, in a reading from Matthew's gospel Jesus urges us to pray in secret and not to let anybody else know what we are about. "Whenever you pray," he says, "go into your room and shut the door and pray to your Father who is in secret." But elsewhere we're told that when two or three are gathered together for prayer, Christ will be there with them. And we're also warned that the light of Christ will shine into all those dark and secret places of our hearts and make them plain for all to see.

So is secrecy a good thing or a bad thing? Most of the time, the answer is probably very simple. Secrecy is good if it means not blowing your own trumpet, working in humility, keeping regular close personal contact with God,

or giving something in some way to other, less fortunate people. But secrecy is bad if it's used to cover something wrong or shameful, or if it's used out of fear, or if we try to use it to hide away from those dark, inner places of our soul.

Sometimes it may be quite difficult to know the difference between the use and the abuse of secrecy. The classic example is two people who meet and fall in love, and begin to conduct an illicit relationship. Such relationships are usually unsought and unexpected, and almost always start in imperceptible ways, so it can be really difficult to spot the dangers. And by the time the dangers become apparent, the relationship has advanced so far and so fast and the love has become so strong that perhaps it feels like there's no drawing back.

We need to signify to ourselves and to God that we're ready for him to penetrate our darkest secrets and to lead us into the light. More important than outward signs is a genuine inner desire to follow him more closely and with genuine humility. For however we offer ourselves, our father who sees into our secret selves will reward us.

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## SWEET DREAMZZZZ



**Do you, or don't you? Many of us feel reluctant to admit that we would like to do it, even if usually we do not. Have a snooze after lunch, that is.** A 20-minute nap seems to work wonders - many studies find that people awake feeling refreshed, with their energy levels renewed and with a much-improved mental focus.

But getting the chance to have your kip is rarely easy, as most work-places in the UK frown on workers falling asleep on their desks. How different from the Far East, where in Vietnam workers drape themselves over their scooters to sleep, or where in Tokyo and Hong Kong businessmen often sleep in public places.

The Japanese even have a polite term for it: inemuri - 'being present while asleep'. Dropping off to casual sleep has been recorded in Japan since the 10th century.

Some UK companies are sympathetic. One CEO of a major advertising company agrees that "a powernap mid-morning or mid-afternoon sets you up for the rest of the day. You are much more alert, and it also promotes creativity."



### **MONDAY** WASH DAY

Lord, help me wash away all my selfishness and vanity, so I may serve you with perfect humility through the week ahead.

### **TUESDAY** - IRONING DAY

Dear Lord, help me iron out all the wrinkles of prejudice I have collected through the years so that I may see the beauty in others.

### **WEDNESDAY** - MENDING DAY

O God, help me mend my ways so I will not set a bad example for others.

### **THURSDAY** - CLEANING DAY

Lord Jesus, help me to dust out all the many faults I have been hiding in the secret corners of my heart.

### **FRIDAY** - SHOPPING DAY

O God, give me the grace to shop wisely so I may purchase eternal happiness for myself and all others in need of love.

### **SATURDAY** - COOKING DAY

Help me, my Saviour, to brew a big kettle of brotherly love and serve it with clean, sweet bread of human kindness.

### **SUNDAY** - THE LORD'S DAY

O God, I have prepared my house for you. Please come into my heart as my honoured guest so I may spend the day and the rest of my life in your presence.

## **DUTY DONE** (FOR THIS MONTH)

BY NIGEL BEETON

*Sitting there, on Sunday morning,  
Congregations in their pews  
Read their magazines, informing  
Them of all the latest news.*

*All save one who sits there smiling -  
She knows that journal very well  
Having spent a month compiling -  
She knows what those pages tell!*

*She it was who, deadlines facing  
Got those varied items in*

*Phoning, asking, pleading, chasing  
Each a battle she must win!*

*Though she earns no princely wages  
Though she gladly gives her time  
Efficiently she fills those pages  
Choosing pictures, prose, and rhyme.*

*So she sits, her rest deserving  
For this month her duty's done  
Maybe she's just strength conserving -  
Soon she starts another one!*

# FUNDRAISING GROUP NEWS

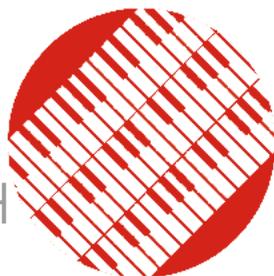
Firstly, we would like to say thank you to all who attended, helped or donated to the **Spring fair**. Although numbers were down a little from last year we managed to make £936.40. Everyone seemed to enjoy the morning, it was a good chance to catch up with friends and meet new people. Again we were delighted to be supported by members of Craigmillar Park and Priestfield Churches. **The Home baking stall** is almost half way to our target in aid of Crossreach. Thanks to all who donated and supported our stall. Our next **Community Coffee morning** will take place on 15th June and we hope you can make it! **And finally, we have the answers to our first quiz sheet. Our winner for the month was Graham Annan, Congratulations! Please look out for our May quiz sheet coming soon for another chance to win £10! Thank you to everyone who has taken part so far.**

## ANSWERS TO REID MEMORIAL QUIZ SHEET 1

- 1 *What is the Greek equivalent of the Spanish snack tapas?* **Meze**
- 2 *What was the first US soft drink to be legally sold in Russia?* **Pepsi**
- 3 *What temperature is the same number on both the Centigrade and Fahrenheit scales?* **Minus 40 degrees**
- 4 *What is the study of Birds' Eggs called?* **Oology**
- 5 *In which event did Jonathan Edwards win Olympic gold?* **Triple jump**
- 6 *England and Scotland played in the first Rugby Union Test match in 1871. What was the outcome?* **Scotland won. The score was 1 try and 1 goal for Scotland and 1 try for England. Tries had no value, only allowing you to "try" to kick a goal. They also played 20 a side.**
- 7 *The inspiration for which children's book character died in April 1996?* **Christopher Robin**
- 8 *Who wrote the poem 'IF'?* **Rudyard Kipling**
- 9 *The song "June is bursting out all over" comes from which musical?* **Carousel**
- 10 *Where does the nurse sell poppies in the Beatles song Penny Lane?* **Behind the shelter in the middle of the roundabout**
- 11 *Name the island in Paris on which Notre Dame stands?* **Ile de la Cite**
- 12 *Which American state comes first alphabetically?* **Alabama**
- 13 *What programme provided the BBC with a third of their profits in 1997?* **Teletubbies**
- 14 *"Surely you can't be serious...?" What's the reply?* **"I am serious and don't call me Shirley"**
- 15 *What did JFK do just before signing the US trade embargo against Cuba in 1962?* **He bought 1,000 Cuban cigars**
- 16 *According to Churchill, what saved "more Englishmen's lives, and minds, than all the doctors in the Empire"?* **Gin & Tonic**

# NOTES

## FROM THE ORGAN BENCH



**MARTYN STRACHAN**, Organist and Choirmaster

### **5th MAY**

*Six Variations on Mein junges Leben hat ein End* - Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck

*Paraphrase on a Chorus by Handel* - Alexandre Guilmant

### **12th MAY**

*Ciacona in G major* - Georg Muffat

*Saraband for the Morning of Easter* - Herbert Howells

### **19th MAY**

*Two Preludes on the Hymn Tunes Martyrs and Irish* - J A Sowerbutts

*Ricercare Op 174 No.9* - Josef Rheinberger

### **26th MAY**

*Intermezzo on an Old Irish Air* - Charles V Stanford

*Postlude on Harwood's 'Thornbury'* - Eric H Thiman

**Jan Pieterszoon Sweelinck** (1562--1621) was one of the first major keyboard composers in Europe and his work as a teacher helped to establish the North German organ school. He left a large quantity of music for both organ and clavier and this set of variations on a Netherlands folksong could have been played on either. There is a gentle melancholy character in the music that seems to match the text perfectly, while containing enough variety to maintain the listener's interest.

**Alexandre Guilmant** (1837–1911) With Widor, Guilmant was one of the giants of French nineteenth-century organ music, both as a composer and a teacher and was particularly influential in America. His pupil William C. Carl founded the Guilmant Organ School in New York, which was a major teaching institution until it closed in the early 1970s. Guilmant had a keen interest in early music and edited a vast amount to help restore it to its proper place in the repertory. This piece reflects this interest and the chorus in question on which it is based is 'See, the conquering Hero comes' from Judas Maccabaeus, which is sung in this country to the words 'Thine be the Glory'.

**Georg Muffat** (1653–1704) Georg Muffat was the son of André Muffat, who was of Scottish descent (the original name was Moffat) and studied in Paris, it assumed under the court composer Jean Baptiste Lully. He also studied law in Ingolstadt and from 1690 was Kapellmeister to the Archbishop of Passau. He left a considerable

quantity of high quality music for keyboard and was famed as a skilful and articulate keyboard player. This Ciacona takes its form from a slow triple-time dance, otherwise known as the Chaconne. It is a series of linked variations on a short harmonic sequence that invites the payer to vary the tonal colour accordingly.

**Herbert Howells** (1892–1983) Herbert Howells was a pupil of Charles Stanford at the Royal College of Music and more than any other twentieth century composer, greatly enriched the Anglican choral repertoire. His output of organ music was not inconsiderable and he too was a renowned teacher. (My colleague Morley Whitehead, present organist of Morningside Parish Church, was a pupil.) This piece comes from a set of six contrasted movements. Like the Muffat, it is based on a Baroque dance form, this time the Saraband which, unlike the chaconne, was invariably to be found in examples of the keyboard suite of this time. As a twentieth century piece, the composer takes considerable liberties with the structure, but the dance element is still discernible.

**J A Sowerbutts** (British 20th century) Not a great deal is known about J A Sowerbutts except that he was based in London and was Secretary of the Royal College of Organists. He seems to have regarded composition as something of a diversion, but the writing is very competent and finished, and his treatment of the two hymn tunes entirely appropriate.

**Josef Rheinberger** (1839–1901) Rheinberger was another famous teacher and had many pupils from both within and outside Europe. His output in all musical forms was prodigious and symphonic and chamber music are well represented. His own instrument being the organ, there is a large quantity of music that includes 20 organ sonatas, that suggests that he intended one for each key. In addition, there are about 100 separate pieces grouped into sets and it is from one of these that the Ricercare is taken. The form is again a contrapuntal one from the Baroque era and this demonstrates Rheinberger's consummate skill as a writer of counterpoint while avoiding being self-consciously imitative of past stylistic models.

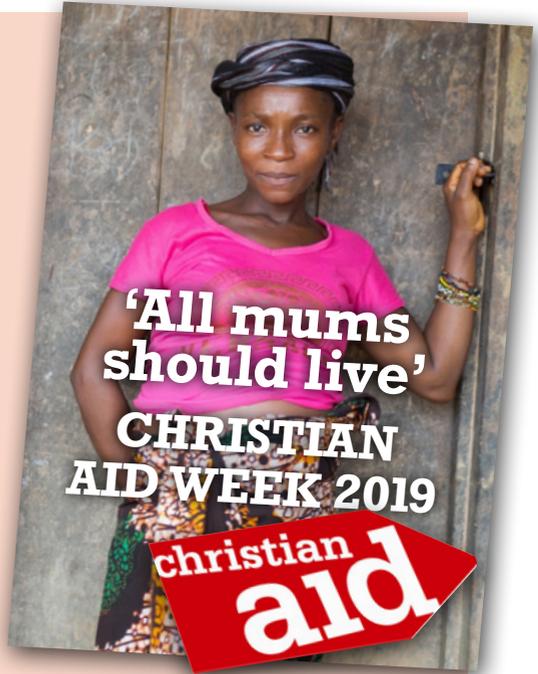
**Charles V Stanford** (1852–1924) Sir Charles Stanford was one of the great British teachers of composition (See Herbert Howells above) and a list of his pupils reads like a Who's Who of late nineteenth and twentieth century composers. One of his preoccupations was the folk music of his native Ireland. He edited an edition of Moore's Irish Melodies and he constantly used folk music material in his compositions. This particular 'Old Irish Air' is the Londonderry Air, one of the best-known Irish melodies. Stanford treats it extensively in his *First Irish Rhapsody for orchestra*, but here it is given a pleasing unpretentious presentation.

**Eric H Thiman** (1900–1975) Eric Thiman was very largely self-taught and for many years was organist of the Park Chapel, Crouch End in London, which was >>



>> Nonconformist. He later moved to the City Temple, also in London, the main Congregationalist church in the capital, remaining there until his death. He felt strongly that parish church organists should have good quality music available to them as voluntaries and he supplied much material for this purpose. He never attempted profundity or a large-scale work, there is no sonata for organ, for example, but his well-crafted unpretentious music is of a quality that no-one should feel ashamed of playing. Here Thiman treats Basil Harwood's tune 'Thornbury' which is sung both to 'Thy hand, O God, has guided' and 'O Jesus, I have promised'.

**Sierra Leone is the world's most dangerous place to become a mum, with ten women dying every day from giving birth.** Sawula district's clinic has no electricity and only two delivery beds. Jebbeh is heavily pregnant but it's not fear that fills her heart, not joy. When Jebbeh's sister Fatmata went in to labour, there were so few ambulances that Fatmata had no choice but to walk for three hours under the baking sun, to the nearest hospital. Jebbeh says: 'My sister was crying out with hunger. She died on the side of the road. She never gave birth.' This Christian Aid Week we can help make childbirth safe for mums and babies, through our gifts and prayers. Just raising £300 could help provide a new delivery bed so mums like Jebbeh can deliver their babies safely.



**Look out for your Christian Aid Week envelope in your Order of Service, then bring it back the following week brimming with money - simple! Prayers also appreciated.**

The next issue of **REIDON...** will be June-August. Please send Linda any articles or notices by **Friday 17th May** - see page 2 for contact details.

