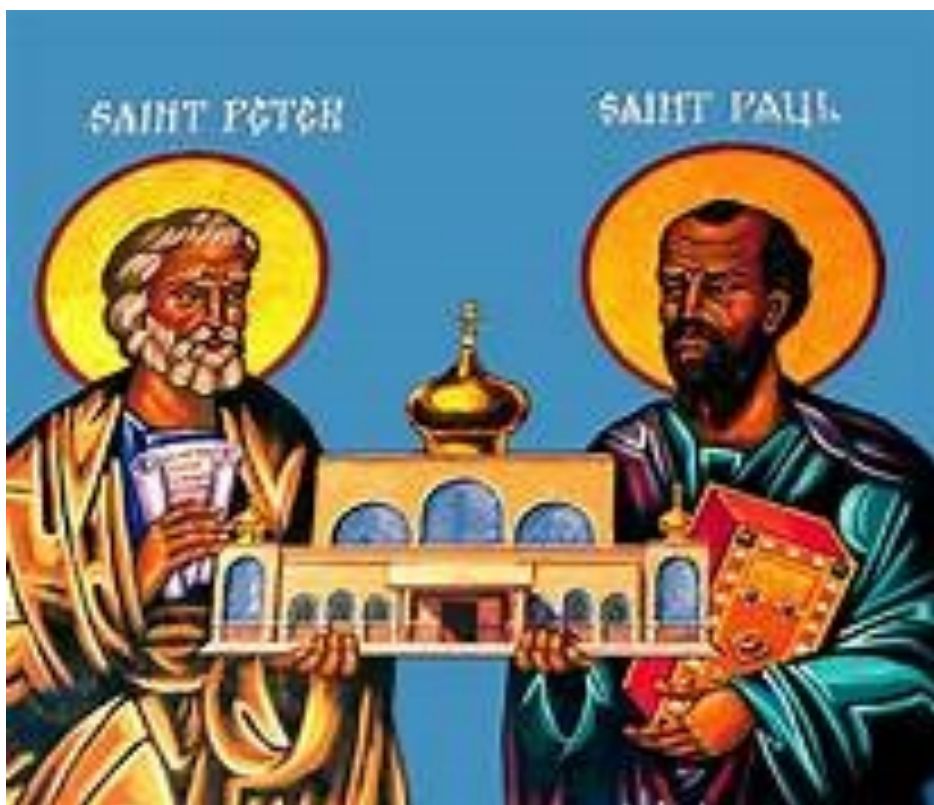


The Parish Church of Saint George



PARISH MAGAZINE

An open door in the heart of the City



JUNE 2024

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CONTENTS



From The Rector's Desk	4
Parish Notices	5
Eco-Congregation Ireland	6
The Journey by Geoffrey May	7
From the Organ Loft	8
At The Hop by Paul McLaughlin	9
Music List	11
Calendar	13
The Society of Ordained Scientists by Fr Suckling	15
End Piece by Jeffrey Johnston	18

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Editorial Team: William Odling-Smee, Selby Nesbitt, Tony Merrick.

From the Rector's Desk



Dear Friends in Christ,

At his year's General Synod of the Church of Ireland in Armagh, a motion was brought to Synod by two lay people to affirm the already existing provision in the Book of Common Prayer that the Church of Ireland would continue to baptise all infants brought for Holy Baptism whose sponsors could meet the requirements set out in the Prayer Book, irrespective of the marital status of the infant's parents. This motion was prompted by the unwillingness of some clergy to baptise infants whose parents are not married. The laity at Synod voted in favour of the motion but the clergy voted against it by 72 votes to 69, a majority of three! The House of Bishops, disappointingly, did not vote on the motion. Those of you who heard my sermons on Sunday 12th May will be aware that I was somewhat upset by the clergy's rejection of the motion. There is too much at stake on this issue to go into all the implications here. Suffice to say that I and a great many of my clerical colleagues from all traditions in the Church of Ireland are upset and, quite frankly, appalled at the rejection of this motion by the clerical representatives at the General Synod. I, and colleagues I have spoken to, will continue to baptise all infants brought to Church for Holy Baptism according to the provisions as set out in the Book of Common Prayer 2004, irrespective of the marital status of the parents. To reject an infant for Holy Baptism simply because the parents are not married, is contrary to the generous and humane tradition of the Church of Ireland, never mind the implications such an action has for our understanding of the doctrine of grace and the role of the Sacraments in the life of the Church. "Suffer the little children to come onto me and forbid them not, for of such is the Kingdom of God", Mark chapter 10, verse 14. I am happy to discuss this matter further with anyone who wants to speak to me about it.

Please do let me know of any sick or housebound people who would appreciate a visit from a priest. Please also let me know of any parents who want to inquire about having their child baptised in St George's. My mobile phone number is 079 0279 2080.

Yours sincerely in Christ

Brian Stewart

PARISH NOTICES

CAR PARKING DURING THE WEEK AT ST GEORGE'S

Parishioner Carparking (2024-2025)



The Annual Donation is now due from Parishioners who have a key fob to allow parking within the Churchyard.

The donation (NOW £50.00) is a gift for the privilege of carparking on one half day per week and should be considered separate from your 'giving' to the Church (i.e..

Standing Order or F.W.O.).

To renew please either:-

- I. Place the donation in an envelope clearly marked '**CARPARKING**' together with your '**NAME**' and **telephone number/e-mail address** (*for communication purposes*) and place it on the offering plate or,
- II. Send by Direct Bankers Order to - Sort Code: 98 00 10 Account No: 09028029 using Reference - '**CARPARK**'.

Your donation will permit the extension of your admission fob which is due to expire on 30th April, and the issuing of a new parking badge for display on your vehicle.

Any new member of the congregation wishing to avail of car parking within the Churchyard (to a maximum of one half day per week) should contact - Roland Bailie : Tel: 078 1360 2122 or Email: rbailie6@gmail.com

PLEASE HELP US TO DECORATE ST GEORGE'S WITH FLOWERS ON A SUNDAY.



Due to unfortunate circumstances, we have no-one available from the wonderful, dedicated, flower arranging team we had until recently, and we are asking for a team of volunteers to take their place. If you think you could help, please speak to Lyn McGlade.

ECO-CONGREGATION IRELAND GROUP

TURTLEY IMPORTANT



Healthy oceans need marine turtles, and the Great Sea Reef (GSR) of Fiji is no exception. The most commonly occurring here are green and hawksbill - both species are important to coral reef health, and nest on Fiji's beaches.

Hawksbill turtles eat lots of sea sponges, which would otherwise out-compete reef-building corals. They also supply vital nutrients to the ecosystem when they defecate. So the turtles help to protect the coral reefs which are crucial for the survival of many other creatures.

Marine turtles have been in our oceans for over 100 million years - they lived alongside dinosaurs! They're brilliant navigators, swimming hundreds or thousands of kilometers between feeding and nesting grounds. But they face lots of threats along the way - so we're doing all we can to help them.

Did you know that most marine turtle population estimates are based on the number of egg-laying females? This is because we can't be sure of the numbers of elusive sea-dwelling males, or females that aren't breeding. But we do know that sadly at least six of the seven species are at risk of extinction.

The Journey by Geoffrey May

Nazareth to Ain Karim-
90 miles at least-
A daunting prospect
But Mary was adamant
She had to see Elizabeth
Her cousin who she knew
Was also with child
And another chosen one

Deliberations for days
Then a break-through:
News of a caravan
Jerusalem bound
There would be a donkey-
A godsend for my wife-
At least two women
And a near neighbour

Young well-travelled
And ready to help us
There were challenges-
Extremes of heat & cold
The one in the plains
By the Jordan river
The other in the hills
Of Samaria but we were

Well prepared and
The olive-groves
And pine-forests
Were availed of
When available
For occasional
Stops and rest
For overnights-
There were three-
We were happy
To join the others
At a cosy hostel,
Arriving at the city
In the afternoon
We said goodbye
To our companions

And made our way
Taking the well-worn
Footpath to Ain Karim
We were nearly there
When surprise surprise
We caught sight of
Elizabeth's husband
Coming out to meet us

May 2024

FROM THE ORGAN LOFT

We remember Ian Barber, who died recently, and who played the organ for us on Sunday Mornings up until Covid 19. Ian had been assistant organist in St Ann's Cathedral for many years and thoroughly enjoyed his time with us. RIP.

The Parish choir is getting ready to embark on its first choir tour since 2018. Our plans to sing in Cambridge in 2020 were denied by the outbreak of Covid, so this is really quite an experience for us all.

Our tour involves four performances: We sing Evensong in Luisen Kirche, a service of which they have no experience and are really looking forward to hearing. We'll sing Stanford in C and Beati Quorum Via.

Saturday June 29th sees us singing in the Trinitas Kirche, a concert for their weekly Music Hour. This will feature repertoire including Goodall's 'The Lord is my Shepherd' with the solo sung by Matthew Loughrey, Tippett 5 Negro Spirituals, and works by Bruckner, Stanford, Chilcott et al.

In the evening, we are performing in the 'Night of Choirs' concert in the Kultur Forum (beside the Philharmonie' in the centre of Berlin.

Sunday Morning, we sing Festival Eucharist in the Luisen Kirche, Schubert in G is the setting.

In between all of this, we have sight seeing tours: Checkpoint Charlie, TV Mast, Olympic stadium and more, as well as, I'm sure, visits to McDonalds and other hostleries as well as some chorister games.

Do please feel free to come to the concert on June 7th, where the choir will perform items outside of their normal skills. We will also hold the final day of the fund raising auction, so do bid and help us to fund raise for this tour.

As the year draws to an academic close, we would like to say thank you for the wonderful support, lovely comments, and interest that the Irish continues to show in the choirs. The SSA choir took on a new look and performed exquisitely at Christmas time. The women are the most wonderful group of human beings, there is a fantastic sense of ownership about the choir and, if you missed them on May 25th singing Mass in St Patrick's Donegall Street, you will have a chance to hear and meet them all on June 21st at the Summer Concert.

Another concert of interest will be the Harp Bunting Concert on June 14th at 7:30pm in the church. It will be a super event, with Harpers from all over and very much in the spirit of the Church's first organist, Edward Bunting.

The Choral Scholars continue to make great progress, a number of them are sitting ABRSM Grade 8 singing and ARSM exams in the coming weeks. We will say so long, but not Farewell, to Luke Armstrong, Connor Ho, and Daniel Quinn as they move on to their university lives. We wish them well and hope that they return to sing with us whenever they are back at home.

Have a lovely summer,
David, Maeve, Mark, and Daniel

AT THE HOP

by Paul McLaughlin



Back in the 1950s, science fiction author Arthur C Clarke said that technology was indistinguishable from magic. Seventy years on, his words cast a spell that remains unbreakable and, as I flicked through the You Tube channel for want of something better to do that afternoon, I knew exactly what he meant.

There on screen were images, captured on film forever by the BBC in 1964, of Belfast youngsters dancing to the latest pop songs. It was magical and I was entranced and enchanted by the sheer energy and enjoyment on the faces of the boys and girls, but green with envy as my own memories came flooding back.

If only someone had had a movie camera. If only the local television station had had the foresight to come and film us as well. For a few short weeks in the Summer of 1964, our little corner of Belfast was also swinging to the sounds of the hit parade with no less drive and delight.

Our Saturday afternoon record hop in the main hall of St Bernadette's Primary School never made it to celluloid, but for a few special weeks during that summer, I and all the seven to eleven-year-olds I knew were twisting and shaking with the best of them.

The local Parish Priest had given the venture his blessing. I'm sure the sixpenny cover charge of several hundred dancers made its way to him sooner rather than later. And, from two until five each week, the sounds of the Beatles, the Beach Boys, the Swinging Blue Jeans and the Searchers took us to another world.

A world of new and exciting noise that stirred the blood and freed the soul. I didn't know it then, of course, but that little dance gave me a first and lasting taste of a music that refuses to age.

Chubby Checker, how politically incorrect is that for a name, dominated the dancefloor as if he were actually there. Everyone thought he or she could do the Twist, so everyone did. Including me! Some boys and girls danced together, some girls with girls, but mostly a great mass of mad dervishes, left their crisps and lemonades to one side when their favourites came on the turntable.

The Hollies, the Kinks, the Moody Blues and the Animals all had their say and we listened. The record player was boosted by a public address system not fit for purpose, but we didn't care and when the live band hit the stage the place went crazy.

I remember the guitarist Charlie Turley, who lived just around the corner from the venue, as did the other lads in the band whose names I probably never knew, playing his instrument with the strap

pulled over his head and the guitar actually behind him. We were mesmerised as the Shadow's 'Apache' and 'Wonderful Land' rang out in a fantastic, echoing, electric twang while their version of 'Dance On' became almost a command to the enthralled crowd. Charlie's antics were, to use the buzzword of the time, **'fabulous'** and all this two years before Jimi Hendrix had thought of conquering British shores.

The band played behind a wrought iron balustrade that bordered a stage more used to Irish dancing, verse speaking and daily prayers than this new rock n' roll and its stout frame served the dual purpose of keeping the horde of fans at bay and preventing over enthusiastic band members from impacting on the newly-laid parquet floor.

Linda was there every Saturday and is still there in my memory. Pretty as the picture that has stayed in my head. A first girlfriend whose hair danced perfectly behind its Alice band, whose white shoes could have walked to Wonderland itself. A memory that needs no cinematography.

I don't know who called time on our weekly trip into the top twenty. Perhaps Father Higgins had had enough of the Devil's music, but more likely the school's headmistress, Miss Heaney, wanted her hall back in one piece for the start of the new school year.

Either way, the music stopped just as summer did and Saturdays were never the same again. Only the memory, like Clarke's technology, remains to conjure up the magic.

MUSIC LIST June 2024

Sunday June 2nd

Trinity 1

11:00am Sung Eucharist

Parish Choir

Processional Hymn	Holy Holy	146
Setting	Mass of the Quiet Hour - <i>Oldroyd</i>	
Psalm	139: 1-5, 12-18	
Gradual Hymn	Christ whose glory	79
Offertory Hymn	God is Love	364
Communion Hymn	276	
Motet	Locus Iste - <i>Bruckner</i>	
Hymn	All hail the power	332

5:00pm Choral Evensong

Parish Choir

Responses	Rose	
Psalm	35: 1-10	
Setting	Evening Service in C - Stanford	
Motet	Beati Quorum Via - Stanford	
Hymns	146, 159 Omit *	

Sunday June 9th

Trinity 2

11:00am Sung Eucharist

Parish Choir

Processional Hymn		
Psalm	138	
Setting	Mass in G - <i>Schubert</i>	
Gradual Hymn	Holy Spirit	140
Offertory Hymn	Come down O Love	137
Communion Hymn	308	
Anthem	Lord for thy tender mercy's sake - <i>Farrant</i>	
Hymn	The Royal banners	79

5:00pm Choral Evensong

Choral Scholars

Responses	Rose	
Psalm	37: 1-11	
Setting	The second service - <i>Moore</i>	
Anthem	The Call - <i>RVW</i>	
Hymns	332, 372	

MUSIC LIST June 2024

Sunday 16th June

Trinity 3

11:00am Choral Eucharist

Parish choir

Setting	Mass of the Quiet Hour - <i>Oldroyd</i>
Psalm	20
Gradual Hymn	Jesu, lover of my soul - 383
Offertory Hymn	Angel voices 336
Communion Hymn	296
Anthem	Jubilate Deo - <i>Britten</i>
Recessional Hymn	All people that on earth 334

5:00pm Choral Evensong

Chamber Choir

Responses	Ayleward
Psalm	39
Setting	Evening Service in D - <i>Brewer</i>
Anthem	Let the people praise thee - <i>Mathias</i>
Hymns	339, 408

Sunday 23rd June

Trinity 4

11:00am Sung Eucharist

Parish Choir

Setting	Little organ Mass - <i>Haydn</i>
Psalm	9: 9-20
Gradual Hymn	Immortal love 378
Offertory Hymn	I heard the voice 376
Communion Hymn	300
Motet	Ubi Caritas - <i>Durufle</i>
Hymn	Be thou my vision 339

5:00pm Choral Eucharist

Men's Voices

Setting	Merbecke
Hymns	354, 200, 467

Sunday 30th June

Trinity 5

11:00am Eucharist

The Parish Choir will be singing the services today in Luisen Kirche, Berlin

5:00pm Evening Prayer

CALENDAR June 2024

June 2

THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9:30am

Eucharist: The Rector

11:00am

Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: 1 Samuel 3: 1-10; 2 Corinthians 4: 5-12; Mark 2: 23 – 3: 6

Reader: *Wardens*

Intercessor: *George Woodman*

Servers: *Steven McQuitty, Tony Merrick, Jonny Calder*

Tea and Coffee: *Valerie Roberts, Howard Fee, Holly Ferris*

5:00pm

Choral Evensong: The Rector

Lessons: Jeremiah 5: 1-19; Romans 7: 7-25 (*Eleanor Maynard*)

June 5

BONIFACE

10:30am

Eucharist: The Rector

June 7

7:30pm

CHOIR CONCERT AND AUCTION

June 9

THE SECOND SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9:30am

Eucharist: The Rector

11:00am

Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: 1 Samuel 8: 4-11; 2 Corinthians 4: 13 – 5: 1; Mark 3: 20-35

Reader: *Geoffrey May*

Intercessor: *Pam Tilson*

Servers: *Omolewa Akinyele, Laura Brannigan, Mark Claney*

Tea and Coffee: *Clara Blaize with Judith*

5:00pm

Choral Evensong: The Rector

Lessons: Jeremiah 6: 16-21; Romans 9: 1-13 (*Fr Tom Layden*)

June 12

10:30am

Eucharist

June 16

THE THIRD SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9:30am

Eucharist: The Rector

11:00am

Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: 1 Samuel 15: 34 – 16: 13; 2 Corinthians 5: 6-10, 14-17; Mark 4: 26-34

Reader: *Pam Tilson*

Intercessor: *Fr Tom Layden*

Servers: *Banji Akinyele, Agape Laoye, Tony Merrick*

Tea and Coffee: *Margaret and Derek Boden*

5:00pm

Choral Evensong: The Rector

Lessons: Jeremiah 7: 1-16; Romans 9: 14-26 (*Paddy Sloan*)

CALENDAR June 2024

June 19

10:30am Eucharist: The Rector

June 21

7:30pm SSA CHOIR SUMMER CONCERT

June 23

THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9:30am Eucharist: The Rector

11:00am Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: 1 Samuel 17: 32-49; 2 Corinthians 6: 1-13;
Mark 4: 35-41

Reader: *Janice Carruthers*

Intercessor: *Janet Sandikli*

Servers: *Banji Akinyele, Laura Brannigan Mark Claney*

Tea and Coffee: *Eleanor Maynard, Catherine Hunter*

5:00pm Choral Eucharist: The Rector

Lessons: Romans 8: 18-23; Luke 6: 36-43 (*Janet Sandikli*)

June 26

10:30am Eucharist: The Rector

June 27

1:00pm Eucharist: The Rector & Fr Graeme Pollock

The Walsingham Group meet at this Eucharist, - all welcome.

June 30

THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

9:30am Eucharist: The Rector

11:00am Eucharist: The Rector

Preacher: The Rector

Readings: 2 Samuel 1: 1, 17-27; 2 Corinthians 8: 7-15;
Mark 5: 21-43

Reader: *George Woodman*

Intercessor: *Janice Carruthers*

Servers: *Banji Akinyele, Jonny Calder, Tony Merrick*

Tea and Coffee: *Keith Suckling, Steven McQuitty*

5:00pm Evening Prayer: The Rector

Lessons: Jeremiah 11; 1-14; Romans 13: 1-10

(*Fr Graeme Pollock*)

LOOKING FORWARD TO THE ANNUAL RETREAT OF THE SOCIETY OF ORDAINED SCIENTISTS.

This piece is rather different from my recent contributions to the Parish Magazine. It's perhaps a bit more specialised and technical, but I hope it will be of interest to some.

In the middle of June I shall be setting off to Launde Abbey in Leicestershire for the annual gathering and retreat of the Society of Ordained Scientists. I always look forward to this meeting. I think I have missed only one in the last 30 years. It is good to meet old friends and together we always feel that with our shared background of science and ministry we are on common ground and do not need to explain ourselves.

The gathering always features a guest speaker who has accepted the daunting task of giving four short talks to a group of highly qualified people from many different fields of science. This year the speaker is Nick Spencer. In the past year or two he has become one of the most celebrated authors in the field of science and religion. His book 'Magisteria', published last year, has become an instant classic. If you want to know more about the book and the field, read on. What follows is a review of the book I wrote last summer for the Church of Ireland periodical 'Search'

MAGISTERIA: The Entangled Histories of Science and Religion.

Nicholas Spencer. London, One World Publications, 2023, 467 pp. ISBN 978-0-86154-461-5

When asked about science and religion, the person in the street, and probably the person in the pew or laboratory too, would repeat the conventional wisdom which insists that these world views are incompatible with each other. In support of this widely held 'conflict model' they might quote the familiar 'proof events' associated with the names of Galileo and Darwin. Like so many prominent issues today, things are quite different from the cheap simplicity of a tweet or a soundbite. 'Magisteria' takes its title from another view of science and religion, that of areas of teaching authority which are fully independent of each other (so we don't need to worry about conflict). However, the idea of independence doesn't fit either. But there is help. In this book, Nicholas Spencer leads us through the complex interactions between science and religion over two millennia. He

presents a story of people from diverse cultures and times finding ways of understanding who we are and the world we live in (and beyond it). Whatever our position when we begin reading his helpful Introduction, we will finish stimulated by the science, fascinated with the people, scientists and others, who we meet on the way, and our views will be better informed and perhaps challenged.

Nicholas Spencer is Senior Fellow at Theos, a London-based think tank which 'stimulates the debate about the place of religion in society, challenging and changing ideas through research, commentary and events' (<https://www.theosthinktank.co.uk/about/who-we-are>). The book arose from the BBC Radio 4 series, 'The Secret History of Science and Religion'. After the Introduction which whets the appetite for what follows, the story develops in four parts.

Part 1 'Science and Religion Before Science and Religion' begins in antiquity, in the Greek and Latin world, when *scientia* and *religio* meant quite different things from their present use. The main religious focus of the book is naturally on Christianity, but specific chapters are devoted to Islam and Judaism, and followed up in Parts 3 and 4. One wonders what might have happened if historical events in, say, Islamic Spain and the middle east had taken a different direction. Nevertheless, the importance of Islamic scholarship to what followed in later centuries cannot be underestimated.

In Part 2 'Genesis', the story of Galileo is presented in a wider context than is usual and reveals the complex series of events that led to his confrontation with the Roman Catholic Church. This is the time, in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, when modern science emerged, the time of Pascale and Descartes, of Newton and Leibniz. Amid profound changes in the church, religion provided a rationale for doing science, at that time known as natural philosophy, albeit with different flavours in the protestant north and the catholic south.

As we move into the nineteenth century (Part 3, 'Exodus') specialism emerges. People who become known as 'scientists' claim their place, perspectives begin to crystallise, and the conflict story emerges more clearly. Representatives of religious and of scientific perspectives claim their authority. Darwin is the 'ism' of the time. Science and religion participate in the imperial projects of western European nations (an interesting chapter called 'Globalisation'). The imperial powers project a view of technical and scientific progress and optimism. For many people the story ends here.

The end of the nineteenth century was indeed a time when things seemed to have been sorted out. But developments in physics (e.g. quantum theory), psychology (Freud and Jung, to name but two),

genetics (leading up to the Human Genome Project and beyond), offered new insights, but raised many questions. Some questions were conceptual, some philosophical, some ethical, and all three and more combined to open up a new time of uncertainty (itself a significant word in the new physics). Spencer steers a steady course through all the developments of the twentieth and twenty-first centuries in Part 4. He sees science and religion returning to conversation, perhaps muddled, perhaps fractious, but certainly, to use Spencer's keyword, 'entangled'. Perhaps there is a quiet resonance with quantum phenomena in this image? The book is of course a historical account, but it ends firmly in the present, in a chapter on artificial intelligence. Things are moving fast here. The chapter was probably out of date on the day the volume was published. But such questions as asking who we are, which arise within AI and its accompanying popular culture, must be informed by the insights of religion, now offered unlike in previous centuries, within a largely secular culture and worldview.

For Spencer the argument of his book, seen through the story it presents, is to understand who we are, and, critically, who gets to say so. The answer to the second question depends on who is asking and what historical time is being considered. Put crudely, is authority to be found in antiquity, in Aristotle, Augustine and Aquinas, or is it in the current governing paradigm of science, waiting to be refined and finally replaced (Thomas Kuhn)? Further, how are we to relate to scripture? To its surprise, and perhaps embarrassment, science has found itself on the defensive against the attack of fundamentalist interpretations, and more recently data deniers during the pandemic and over climate change.

To a scientist and a priest, like me, this book was an exciting read. I loved to see the development of science plotted together with a religious and general historical timeline, to read about the people involved, to feel a bit closer to how they may have thought and what their motivations may have been. The coverage is as comprehensive as a book of this size could be and there are ample notes, references, and a good index. Spencer writes with ease. He does not force any specific point of view but leads the reader on from one perspective to the next. Occasionally he will take a short time out from the narrative to add his own thoughts, gently provocative, on a topic.

Not many books in the field are hailed as a 'page turner' (as stated in the publisher's blurb) but this is a fair comment. 'Magisteria' will command its own magisterium for many years to come.

PS. Spencer has just published a new volume which I am waiting to read.

ENDPIECE by Jeffrey Johnston

ETHEL FLOREY - 'ON HER BIKE' TO TEST OUT A WONDER DRUG.

In 1928 Sir Alexander Fleming discovered a strange mould growing on a culture plate in his London laboratory. Somehow this mould had killed off all the bacteria surrounding it. Experiments showed that the mould could be introduced into wounds without harming living flesh.

Fleming shared his discovery with a number of laboratories, but none followed it up.

Ten years later Dr Howard Florey and Dr Ernest Chain, recalling Fleming's work, started a new series of studies with a team in Oxford. They succeeded in extracting from the great quantity of broth in which the mould was cultivated a small quantity of the new drug - penicillin. Howard Florey now asked several hospitals in Oxford if they would permit trials to be carried out on selected patients. He asked his wife, Ethel, to undertake the trials. She, like him, was a medical graduate from Adelaide University in Australia and was well up to speed with his experiments.

So, Ethel placed tiny amounts of the drug in vials, placed them in an old Victorian vanity case, strapped it to her bicycle and set off for local hospitals. Her first patient was a 43 year old policeman. After six days his infection responded well to the drug but the amount available was insufficient and after some weeks he had a relapse and died. Then she treated a young woman at the Radcliffe Infirmary with a severe pelvic infection, caused by a self-induced abortion. The patient's life was ebbing fast. Twice a day for six days Ethel administered the drug in substantial quantities. The girl recovered and the doses of the drug had done no harm. Her next patient was a two month old baby with a bone infection and a high fever. Ethel began a series of injections and after nine days there were signs of improvement. After some months the baby, fully recovered, was returned to her parents.

The list of triumphs grew longer but the supply was pitifully small. As word got out about the new drug, an article appeared in the Lancet, showing the frustration of the medical community. It was entitled: "Unequaled but Unobtainable." Howard Florey had been unable to interest pharmaceutical firms in manufacturing it. Then

came a turning point.

After 187 trials had been completed in the Oxford hospitals, Howard travelled to the US in 1941 and, through a colleague at Yale University, was able to access the US Department of Agriculture. This facility had the large vats needed to hold the brew in which the drug could be cultivated on a large scale. With the support of governments both in the US and Britain penicillin was now in full production.

This was happening at a crucial point in World War 2. On D-Day, 6th June 1944, British and Allied forces were landing on the Normandy beaches. Casualties were being repatriated from the battle zone in large numbers. With the drug now freely available, Ethel Florey found herself in a new role: consultant in a military hospital in London, administering penicillin to the casualties returning from the beaches. During several months she treated 3,000 wounded soldiers. The drug was effective in fighting infections that would usually have been very serious. A year later, by V J Day (Victory over Japan), the drug was in general use both in Britain and the US. Penicillin had arrived.

In 1945 Alexander Fleming, Howard Florey and Ernest Chain were awarded the Nobel Prize for Physiology in Medicine.

