

# HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Bradford on Avon



**PARISH NEWS**

**FEBRUARY 2007**



## Editorial

Parish News starts 2007 with new Editors, Ann Holland and Bryan Harris. We shall of course try hard to keep up the standard set by previous Editors, but we are only too conscious that, however seductive the arrangement of the words on the pages, it is the content that matters. And although the Editors can do their best to produce an attractive magazine, we have to rely on others to produce the content that will make Parish News more than just a source of information about service times and parish telephone numbers.

There are certain contributors who, inevitably, are called upon to produce their monthly reports, and we shall continue to be as ruthless in our demands for copy as other Editors have been. But why not consider whether you have something that you would like to share with your fellow parishioners? This could be something fairly straightforward, like the Prayer for the Month, which we already have, or a poem, not necessarily one that you have written yourself, or a recipe, a review of a book that you have recently read, a gardening article, or a piece about any other hobby that you may be passionate about. If you should decide to send us something, we promise not to try to make it a regular commitment. But if enough members of our community could supply us with just a few extra items each month, it would make our job as Editors so much easier.

If you use a computer and the internet, email your suggestions to us at [HT.parishnews@googlemail.com](mailto:HT.parishnews@googlemail.com)

But if you don't want any truck with these new-fangled technologies, just hand a typed or handwritten piece to either Ann or Bryan and we'll do the rest.

Make it your own Parish News.

Ann Holland and Bryan Harris

# DIARY FOR MONTH



<b>4 SUNDAY</b>		<b>3 BEFORE LENT</b>	
	6 pm	Compline	
<b>11 SUNDAY</b>		<b>2 BEFORE LENT</b>	
	9.30 am	Clergy Exchange with Christ Church	
	6 pm	Evensong	<i>Christ Church</i>
<b>15 Thursday</b>	7.30 pm	Deanery Synod	<i>Upper Studley</i>
	7.30 pm	Mothers' Union - The Story of the Millennium Embroidery (Gill Winfield)	<i>Hall</i>
<b>18 SUNDAY</b>		<b>SUNDAY BEFORE LENT</b>	
	9.30 am	Family Communion	
	6 pm	Service of Prayer for Hope and Health	
<b>21 Wednesday</b>		<b>ASH WEDNESDAY</b>	
	10 am	Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes	
	7.30 pm	Sung Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes	
<b>24 Saturday</b>	7.30 pm	Servers' Social	<i>Winsley Social Club</i>
<b>25 SUNDAY</b>		<b>FIRST SUNDAY OF LENT</b>	
	6 pm	Sung Evensong	<i>Church</i>

*Copy Date for March is 11th February*

## LENT SCHOOL 2007

**Thursdays, 22 February, 1, 22 & 29 March, 2 pm, repeated at 7.30 pm**

### IMAGES FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

**Artists illuminate the Old Testament Story**

*Enrolment forms will be in Church from 4 February*

## FROM THE REGISTERS

### Holy Baptism

- 3.12 Abigail Louise Rendell
- 24.12 Alexander David Robinson

### Marriage

- 5.1 Kevin Christopher Johnson  
& Victoria Jane Grant

### Funerals

- 1.12 Michael George Lemon
- 7.12 George Albert Hugh Burge
- 14.12 Barbara Elizabeth Sims
- 18.12 Jeanne Mary Hargreaves
- 4.1 Mary Bryning
- 8.1 Harry (Peter) Sheppard

## FROM THE VICAR

I've been attending the Bradford Deanery Synod (which I chaired for 10 years) since 1973, and various versions of deanery meetings since I was ordained. I may therefore be forgiven if my vision of this strand of the church's organisation is a little tinged with bile. The meeting I attended in January was very well chaired, and I couldn't claim to have done better. But I had a vision, not of heaven, but of the Other Place, not peopled with flames, instruments of torture and demonic figures from Breughel and Bosch, but sitting, chained to a church hall chair, presiding over a deanery synod about the Deanery Strategy Plan, in which all the Usual Suspects had a great deal to say, and with the clock, like our church hall clock, eternally stuck at 9 o'clock, and never reaching 9.30!

But the underlying need for parishes to work more closely together was certainly underlined by the process, and is being brought more sharply into focus for our own Bradford Group Ministry. To this end, we look forward to welcoming clergy from Christ Church on 11<sup>th</sup> February, and Angela and I will be going there. We will also, this month, be starting our pattern of two shared evening services a month, one at Trinity, and one at Christ Church; also, the clergy and churchwardens of the Group are attending two evenings on the subject of Christian Listening as a first stage in shared training.

We all of us lead busy lives, whether we are clergy or laity, and it's hard to think too much outside our parish boundaries. But we need to respond to Jesus's teaching, which tells us, on the one hand not to be anxious about tomorrow, but on the other to be wise and perceptive about our situation, and energetic in responding to it. The church is going to face new, and different, challenges in finance and manpower, and is having to adapt its parish structures to the needs of an increasingly 'missionary' situation in an increasingly secular society. So we must try to look for shared activities that bring real strength and real benefit, and which will prepare us for whatever pattern of working together the future may demand. A good thing to be thinking about when the new year is less than a month old!

NB with the New Year comes the need to draw up a new Electoral Roll - a year earlier than normal! Please be ready to do the necessary paperwork, and to return it quickly.

*Bill Mather*

GROWING



Holy Trinity

Sunday School

LEARNING

## Sunday School News for Month



*photo David Milne*

Congratulations to all of the Sunday School children for their performance in the nativity play! Everyone agrees that they did very well

on the day. The play was several weeks in development, and was an exercise in empathy. The children were asked how they might have felt on that night, and to tell of their experiences as though they were one of the “characters”. It was quite a revelation to hear some of their thoughts, and the dialogue we heard in the play itself represented only a small fraction of what was said! It was quite refreshing to listen to the children discussing the story of the birth of Jesus with such passion.

We took the opportunity of an extra rehearsal session at the Christmas party we shared with the United Church. Their children are mostly younger than ours, and we were asked to perform our play for them. The United children (and parents and helpers) enjoyed it very much, and it made for a welcome addition to an afternoon of fun and Christian Fellowship. Many thanks to Harry and Ailsa our happy and hard-working hosts. Thanks also to our Health and Safety office, Michelle Carter who took the sting out of the risk assessment we needed to do for this occasion.

What will 2007 bring for the Sunday school? We have been invited to a Fun Day with the United church. This could be a good opportunity to ask the children to examine some of the parables and come up with another piece of theatre...a game or contest, who knows? All in all we are trying to make bible study an exciting and interactive adventure, whilst reminding them that we are in fact learning about life, and the way we choose to live it.

Karen Bowen-Nielsen, for the Sunday school team



We had an excellent preparation for Christmas on December 21st, when we enjoyed an evening of music and readings, some of the latter very thought provoking. Ian had provided some new material for me to incorporate in the readings, for which I was very grateful. A group of us had spent an enjoyable morning preparing the Christingle sticks, and Isabel and I were very glad of the help from the Sunday School teachers to prepare the oranges on Christmas Eve. We may need help from outside next year, as it is getting more difficult to find people to do that job.

Our party in early January was voted a great success. The food, as always, provided by the members, turned into a wonderful supper, and some admitted to going for third helpings! Mary, with help from Trevor, had provided two quizzes, one on the walls, and another to mull over while at supper. They both needed a lot of concentration, and the marks were not high! We had a wonderful raffle, which raised the funds to pay for the wine, *etc*, and left a useful sum afterwards for our funds.

The magazine will be printed before we have our AGM this month, but we have established our new Committee in advance. Pat Kitchen is standing down after many years as Deputy Leader, for which we give her hearty thanks, and know she will still be there, albeit in new surroundings, to advise and help; Marlene Haffenden is giving up as Treasurer and becoming Deputy Leader, in readiness, I hope, to take over from me, when I give up! Janet Brown was very relieved when I found a new Secretary, she has worked so hard for our Branch, when she has had so much to do in her family life. Mary Dawson has agreed to be Secretary, and Beryl Cox is joining the committee as Treasurer, grateful thanks to them both. Evelyn Humphrey and Ian Stanes are both joining the committee, and we look forward to having some new ideas and input from all our new members. Our theme this year is "Faith in Action", and we hope to be showing this in our work in the church and for the wider world.

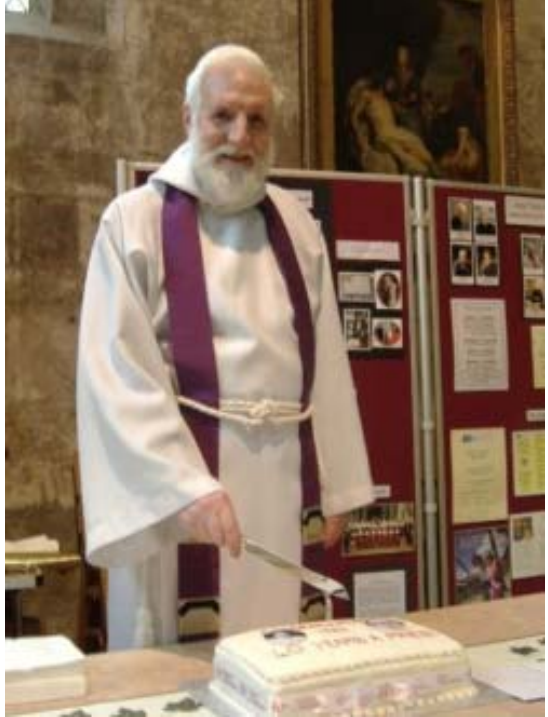
Chris Hodge

## The Venerable Ian Stanes's 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Priesting

Seen here posing with the beautiful cake made for the occasion by Chris Hodge (who else!), Ian celebrated his 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary on the morning of Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> of December after the service with Sylvia, family and many friends from Holy Trinity and beyond.

While Ian presided at the service, Canon Richard Truss, a close friend and colleague, now Vicar of St. John's, Waterloo, and a Canon of Southwark Cathedral, preached an informative sermon using the set lessons for Advent II to talk about leadership. Amusing anecdotes slipped out when he said that Ian was the one likely to stir up rather than lay back!

The two friends first met at Wycliffe Hall theological college in Oxford, studying for their degrees at the University through Linacre (the graduates-only college as they both had previous degrees in other subjects). They were the only two students from their college doing a very modern doctrine course. The firm friends parted briefly while Ian left to go to Holy Apostles, Leicester, and was followed nine months later by Richard as a second curate to the same parish.



*photo Chris Hodge*

The two curates did many things together, including taking 26 young people around Scotland for a fortnight, and they became *enfants terribles* to their vicar whom they 'ganged up' on (apparently he still talks to them!)

They both joined the Modern Churchpeople's Union and Ian played a part in introducing Richard to his wife. Ian and Sylvia have been friends with them ever since.

They played tennis together, and then Ian moved on to other sports like rock-climbing, hockey and badminton: the last two are still part of his very active life.

Ann Holland

## PARISH PROFILE

Mike and  
Doreen  
Wilkins



Both Mike and Doreen were born and educated in Oxford. After leaving school Doreen trained at the Radcliffe Infirmary and qualified as a State Registered Nurse in 1955. Mike entered the Army and after serving for two years in Germany, he commenced his training as a Quantity Surveyor.

Although they lived near each other and Doreen knew Mike's cousin they had never actually met until a blind date was arranged for the Matron's Ball in 1954. They were married at St Aldate's church in Oxford in 1956 and for the next two years they lived in Dulwich where their daughter Sandra was born in 1957.

The following year they moved to East Grinstead where their other three children, Timothy, Nicholas and Karen, were born. All the children attended St Mary's C of E school and Doreen helped in the C of E day nursery and was also an officer in St John's Ambulance. After completing his qualifications as a Quantity Surveyor and Arbitrator Mike joined Marples Ridgeway and was involved in the construction of the M1, followed later by engineering projects in the Midlands and Scotland. He also served on various Quantity Surveying Institute committees and still found time for his church PCC.

In 1969 they moved to Bath when the company was taken over by the

Bath and Portland Group, and so Doreen became involved in nursing at Dorothy House during its early days at Bloomfield Road. She also worked part time at elderly peoples' homes. They attended Christ Church in Julian Road where Mike was church warden for several years and Doreen was a trustee of the church properties. They both helped with the Youth Group; running the choir football team and with various events organised in the Mendips by the Bath and Wells diocese. Their children were either choir members or servers.

Mike was elected President of his Institute for the year 1977-78 which involved both of them in a hectic year of visits and functions covering most of the United Kingdom. High spots were visits to South Africa and Hong Kong, but they felt that the most rewarding was a visit to Belfast at the height of 'the troubles' as it was such a difficult and sad time for the members there, where there were scenes certainly not witnessed elsewhere.

Having been commercial director for a number of years Mike retired in 1991. By then they had moved to Bradford on Avon and he had set up a small consultancy office here. The children had 'fled the nest', Sandra to Paris *via* South Africa and New Zealand, Timothy back to Sussex, Nicholas to the offshore banking world of the Cayman Isles, and Karen, following her mother in a nursing career, is now a Ward Sister on the head injuries unit at the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases in Bath.

Both Mike and Doreen enjoy the peace of the 8am service at Holy Trinity. Once a member of the PCC and Treasurer, Mike is now Treasurer of the local Museum. They enjoy visits to the theatre, classical concerts, walking the dog and holidays. Last year they celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary with the rare joy of a complete family holiday which included all their children and grand children.

Pat Kitchen

## Christmas Bells

People commented on a sense of excitement in the bell-ringing as they approached the church on Christmas morning, so we asked Anne Willis to explain what the ringers had been doing, preferably in non-mathematical terms. Here is her explanation.

The art of change ringing is peculiar to the English, and, like most English peculiarities, unintelligible to the rest of the world. To the musical Belgian, for example, it appears that the proper thing to do with a carefully tuned ring of bells is to play a tune on it. By the English campanologist, the playing of tunes is considered to be a childish game, only fit for foreigners: the proper use of bells is to work out mathematical permutations and combinations.

Dorothy L. Sayers, *The Nine Tailors*

Can I explain the ringing on Christmas morning? This means trying to remember what we rang on Christmas morning, which I can't, though Tom tells me that it did include Stedman Triples by special request from Gareth who joins us on occasions (he is also the Ringing Master for the Calne Branch of the Salisbury Diocesan Guild of Ringers)

Can I explain ringing in a few non-mathematical words? Sorry, but the short answer is not very easily. As Dorothy Sayers says, English change-ringing is the pursuit of musical mathematical combinations of the bells. One of my favourite 'lines' is the last but two change in Stedman Triples. Not because it means the end is nigh (though there is something in that) but because it sounds good. It goes 2 3 1 5 4 6 7 8. Try it on the piano in C major, with 1 as middle C, and 8 the C below. But it's a long way from knowing nothing about ringing to Stedman Triples, so here's something on one of the basic steps on the route; CALL CHANGES. I will explain on six bells, but the idea can be expanded to as many bells as needed.

The simplest thing to ring on bells is ROUNDS. Here the bells are rung in descending order from the highest note on the lightest bell (the treble) to the lowest note on the heaviest (the tenor), 1 2 3 4 5 6. The treble is first, it is leading. Number two, the second bell, is in second place, the third bell is in third place and so on. The tenor is covering, providing the steady beat behind the others. Now well-struck rounds, nice and even with no jumps or clashes sound very good, but can be a

little tedious. The easiest variation is call changes in which the conductor, who can be ringing any bell, calls the bells into a different order. Remember that each bell is in its place in rounds. The rule of the game say that you can move a place each way, either down to the front or up to the back, or stay in the same place (known as making places).

So there you are ringing rounds beautifully and the conductor says 'two to three'. This means instead of going 1 2 3 4 5 6, the order becomes 1 3 2 4 5 6. The second and third swap places, the second moving to thirds place and the third to seconds place. 'Four to five' could be the next call giving 1 3 2 5 4 6. The fourth bell is now in fifths place, the fifth is in fourths place. 'Two to five' will put the second bell into fourth place giving that pleasant sequence known as Queens 1 3 5 2 4 6. Queens can be extended to any number of bells; the odd numbered bells in sequence 1 3 5 ... followed by the even numbered bells 1 3 5 ... 2 4 6 ... Try it on the piano, using C major as above.

There are many set sequences for call changes, all produced in the same way, place by place. Tittums, a descending sequence of fourths, (or fifths, sixths etc, depending on the number of bells you have). On six bells it goes 1 4 2 5 3 6. Ten bells sound really good; 1 6 2 7 3 8 4 9 5 10; te tum, te tum, te tum, te tum, te tum. There also Whittingtons 1 2 7 5 3 4 6 8, and Weasels is popular on five bells, 1 4 2 3 5. Try seeing if you can write the changes out line by line. If you put 'call changes' in to your search engine you will find a host of others.

However good they sound call changes don't really stretch the brain (whether we really want to stretch our brains at 9 am on a Sunday is another matter). METHODS are a step further, but perhaps we'll leave that until another time.

**Technical stuff.** The word Tenor comes from the Latin 'tenare', to hold. In the early days of music there was no bass line, only the tenor, holding the music together.

Tittums on six bells: start with rounds	1 2 3 4 5 6
three to four	1 2 4 3 5 6
two to four	1 4 2 3 5 6
three to five	1 4 2 5 3 6

Anne Willis ©

## PHOTO FROM THE PAST

**Helen Brown, Anthony Matthews and Louise Brown.**

*This photograph was taken in 1985, at a Mothers' Union Christmas entertainment.*

Louise attended St Laurence School and then went on to study at Bath College where she obtained a Diploma in Health and Fitness Therapy. She then worked at Bath's Sports Olympic Training Village as a duty manager, for five years looking after the sports stars of the future, and the day-to-day running of the Centre.

Then came a career change when Louise went to work for the Oval Motor Company Fleet Saloon Department. It was during this period that she married Tim, whom she had dated since she was 17. Tim comes from a Bradford on Avon family, was born and went to school



here. He is currently business manager at Oval Motors, Westbury. Louise's next career move was becoming Sales Rep. for the family business, Geo. Brown & Sons. On 19<sup>th</sup> August, she and Tim became the proud parents of Amelia Florence, and are thoroughly enjoying parenthood.

Following 'A' Levels at St Laurence School in 1995, Helen went on to train full-time at the Thamesdown Dance Studios in Swindon. She then qualified for a place at the London Studio Centre, where she completed her training in ballet, tap, jazz and contemporary dance with Musical Theatre.

Helen moved back to Bradford on Avon and joined Bath's Musical Youth Theatre Company as a performer and choreographer. It was there that

she met Graham, and they were married in 1999. Graham is also involved with cars, as Regional Operations manager for Honda for the South of England, and shares his wife's interest in drama, as a performer, and in writing speeches. Graham and Helen moved to London, and after numerous moves around the country have now settled back in the south-west with two lovely sons, Harry aged 4 and Charlie aged 3. She still finds the time to appear in pantomimes and plays, and enjoys singing at weddings and special occasions. Following her successful appearance in the role of Carrie in 'Carousel' at the Theatre Royal, Bath, she says how grateful she is to Graham and her parents, Janet and Jim, for all the help with baby-sitting.

Fortunately, as husbands of twins, Tim and Graham are very good friends, and enjoy playing golf together.

Anthony was a member of our Church Choir from the age of six, eventually becoming Head Chorister. He was also a keen member of Kingsdown Golf Club, where he became Junior Captain. He was educated at King Edward's School, and then went on to Durham University, where he read History and Economics. In his pre-university year and during the vacations he worked long hours in the restaurant and hotel trade in Bath, which was a good preparation for the hours he would later be working! On graduating, he went to work with Deloitte's as a trainee accountant in audit at their Birmingham branch. He moved to the Leeds branch where he is now a Senior Manager, and enjoying his work.

While at St Aidan's in Durham, he met Vicky, who was reading psychology there, and they married in 2003. She went on to work for Corus (British Steel), first in I.T., and then selling tyre-cord. Anthony has often commented on the fact that she has gone off to Europe, the USA, China and Korea in the course of her work, while he goes to less exotic-sounding locations in the industrial North! Their first home was in Normanton, near Wakefield, but they moved to Epworth in Lincolnshire at the end of last year. At the end of November, Katie Elizabeth was born, and is a source of great delight to her fond parents (and grandparents).

## My time at Holy Trinity

I am writing to thank you for the welcome and hospitality which you showed me during my month-long 'placement' during November. The purpose of the placement was to contribute to my training by showing me aspects of ministry which I might not have encountered so far.

Perhaps the most obvious new experience happened right at the beginning of the placement when I was asked to preside at the Solemn Eucharist for All Saints. Despite some expert tuition from John Ticehurst and others I was still feeling distinctly nervous as I walked up in the procession accompanied by the thurible in which incense was to be burnt. I had been suitably fortified by 'horror stories' of fingers being burnt and charcoal being spilt on carpets so I was determined on a 'safety first' approach to this operation. In the event, however, it all seemed to go off without undue incident and, certainly, it seemed to me a very spiritually alive occasion.

The Sunday after that was the town Remembrance Day service. Seeing all the different and varied groups gathered in the church and at the War Memorial — cadets, scouts, guides, representatives of schools and so on — made me realise how significant Holy Trinity's role as a civic church is. It was also good to see so many young people in church for whom this event was so obviously a meaningful one.

I preached twice, once at the Hope and Health service in the evening and once at my third main Sunday service. On both occasions I was struck by the detail with which various members of the congregation commented on the talks. It really is helpful to have such feedback so that you are aware of what is being received during a sermon and what aspects of it (if any !) are striking home.

Although retired clergy are, in general, plentiful around the Bradford area, Holy Trinity seems to enjoy a particular concentration of them. The wealth of their experience and wisdom came to the fore in the Bible studies held in the Library during November. And, on a personal note, I am very grateful for the encouragement and hospitality shown me by various retired clergy during my time at Holy Trinity.

So, thank you once again for making me so welcome and making the period of my placement so enjoyable. Now that I am back up the hill at Christ Church, I shall take the richness of this time with me and I am sure that during the remainder of my curacy there will be occasions when we will meet and work together again.

Tristram Rae Smith

## **A Reader Running!**

Some of you may have noticed our Reader (Graham Dove) running around town in slightly less than his clerical garb. This is due to Graham's New Year resolution to run two half-marathons and one full marathon covering a total of over **50 miles** before he reaches his fast approaching **50<sup>th</sup> Birthday**. He will start with the Watford Half on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2007, then attempt the Bath Half on Sunday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2007 before finally going for the ultimate challenge of the full marathon at Taunton on Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> April 2007!!

Graham is running on behalf of a local charity, The Neem Tree Trust. The Neem Tree Trust is a registered charity supporting a home for disabled boys as well as children of leprosy patients at a hospital in the state of Tamil Nadu, Southern India. The boys' home is run by a Christian doctor and many of the younger boys there have mild cerebral palsy and some have learning difficulties. The trust also helps woman patients at St Luke's Hospital in Peikulam, which is widely supported within the UK.

One of the aims of The Neem Tree Trust is to involve the boys from the home as much as possible in raising money for themselves and they make many items that are sold both in India and this country.

If you would like to support Graham in his efforts there are two main ways: spiritually and financially. Spiritually, Graham would welcome your prayers for health and fitness as he prepares for this gruelling schedule. Financially, if you would like to sponsor Graham he will have the necessary forms available on him. Every pound donated will go directly towards helping the children in India, as there are absolutely no administrative costs in running the charity, and Graham will match your donation.

You can find more about The Neem Tree Trust at

[www.neemtreetrust.org.uk](http://www.neemtreetrust.org.uk) or by contacting Kathy Miller on 01225 865789.

## **A Message from Joan Dering:**

Happy New Year Jean and Bill.

I do hope you have been able to have a rest and see your family and New granddaughter!! We all went to Midnight Mass at the Roman Catholic Church "St Josephs", which started at Midnight. Holy Trinity Vanderhoof has no priest at the moment. The Catholic church was packed and some were standing. Some people had come a long way. There were a few babies and toddlers. No stained glass windows or old silver but a server stood at each end with wine for the Anglicans!!

Sunday the 31st Dec was Randall's Birthday and Sung Eucharist was held at 2:00pm, preceded by a potluck lunch, everybody bringing something. We did not go to that as Randall had farm chores. The priest came from a big church in Prince George - 60 miles away. The sermon was a bit long!!

The country side is covered in snow, about 3 feet of it!, Main roads are always good. A bit different from B on A.

Best wishes to everyone and a Happy Birthday for the 8th January

Love Joan

## **An Andalucian Tart Recipe**

Continuing our series of seasonal Holy Trinity tart recipes, here is one from Andalucia. Oranges are magic, especially at this time of year: orbs of light from warmer climes, full of sharp sweetness to lift our northern spirits and soothe our digestive systems. Once, they were a sign of opulence — the golden balls of the Medici coat of arms. Look at the backgrounds of the many Quattrocento paintings of the Nativity and you will see orange trees, historically and geographically inaccurate, but full of symbolic meaning.

This recipe combines the taste of sweet apples and oranges — unusual, but it works.

### **The case**

For the tart case you will need a 9 inch (23cm) tart tin and sweet short-crust pastry flavoured with the finely grated zest of a large orange. Bake the case 'blind' for about 10 minutes at 200°C.

### **The filling**

- 1 lb (500g, roughly) of dessert apples
- 2 large oranges
- a little sugar

Peel, core and slice the apples. Cook gently in a small amount of water, turning frequently. Remove from heat when tender, mash well and sweeten to taste. At this point you could add a teaspoonful or so of Cointreau if you have any left over from Christmas. Peel the oranges and slice thinly. Spread the apple purée in the pastry case, put the orange slices on top and bake for about 15 minutes at 200°C.

### **The glaze**

- 3 tablespoons of apricot jam
- the juice of half a lemon

Make a thick apricot glaze by boiling together the jam and lemon juice before sieving it. Brush over the tart as soon as you take it from the oven.

Best served warm.

Margaret Harris

## A NEW DEAN AT WESTMINSTER

As a volunteer duty chaplain at Westminster Abbey, I was pleased to receive an invitation to attend the Installation of the new Dean, Canon John Hall, on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> December. Before his appointment, he had been for eight years the Church of England's Chief Education Officer. The Installation was in the context of Choral Evensong, and contained a number of unique and interesting features. As a 'Royal Peculiar' the Abbey is not under the jurisdiction of a bishop, and the appointment is made by the Queen, to whom the Dean is directly responsible, and who was represented on this occasion by the Bishop of London, in his capacity of Dean of the Chapels Royal.

The first surprise was to find that the new Dean's ancient Declaration and Oath were to be read in Latin, which began:

*'Ego, John Robert Hall, regia majestate decanus designatus huic ecclesiae collegiate beati Petri Westmonasteriensis, hoc sacramento meipsum astringo'*

(I, John Robert Hall, having been appointed dean of this collegiate church of St Peter in Westminster by Her Majesty, bind myself by this oath...)

He went on to promise to 'set the authority of Scripture before the judgements of men', and to 'prefer truth to custom and written law to unwritten.' In the second part of the oath, he agreed to work with his brother and sister canons, and not to reach any decision without their consent. (The addition of the Latin word for 'sister' had to be added here, as one of the present canons is, for the first time, a woman !)

The new Dean was then installed not once but thrice, and in his excellent sermon he later explained the significance of each in terms of the Abbey's ministry. Firstly he was installed in his stall in the Quire, representing the regular daily worship, led by the Choristers, which upholds all of the Abbey's life and activities. Secondly he was installed in the Sanctuary, close to the Shrine of St Edward the Confessor, the Abbey's founder, representing this church as a place of pilgrimage for the many thousands who are welcomed daily from

all corners of the world; and here the duty chaplains had a special mention, as by their presence and hourly prayers they remind visitors of the Abbey's care and true purpose. Lastly, he was installed in the Chapel of King Henry VII, the spiritual home of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath, a reminder of the Abbey's link with the Monarchy, both as the theatre of Coronation since 1066, and as the place of so many great National and Royal Family occasions.

As we left to the sound of the Great Organ, following the singing of the National Anthem, we all felt inspired by the Dean's reference to Jacob's words at Bethel, after he had seen a vision of a ladder set up between earth and heaven, with angels ascending and descending on it: 'Surely the Lord is in this place. This is none other than the house of God, and this is the gate of heaven.'

Peter Hardman

### **Carols around the world!**

I happened to mention to my daughter Becky, who lives in Australia, that the Holy Trinity carol service was on the internet. She was thrilled about this and had been listening to it. When she rang me this morning she had it playing in the background, I guess this is a round trip just about round the earth!

Jeremy Lavis

### **Parish Holiday: Venice 2008**

The next Parish Holiday will be to Venice in April 2008. We shall be flying from Bristol, so there will be less travelling, and staying in Venice itself. There is a good programme of visits and also quite a lot of free time, which we didn't have on the last trip! From 22<sup>nd</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2008, the cost will be £799, half board, plus £25 insurance. Anyone interested please contact me on 863543.

Chris Hodge

## GREAT WALL TREK

Step back in time and discover the secrets of Inner Mongolia's majestic and mysterious section of the Great Wall of China. Take on the Hope and Homes for Children's China Challenge from the 26<sup>th</sup> May — 6<sup>th</sup> June 2007 and help them change the lives of some of the world's poorest children.

The trek is open to anyone over the age of 14 and is suitable for all fitness levels.

For more information contact Abi Thatcher on 01722 792

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## Saxon Club Programme

February 2007

*We meet in the Church Hall at 2 pm on Tuesdays.*

*You are very welcome to join us.*

30 <sup>th</sup> January	Rock Climbing, The Venerable Ian Stanes
6 <sup>th</sup> February	Tall Ships, Linda Sellars
13 <sup>th</sup> February	Guides -- Then and Now, Judith Holland
20 <sup>th</sup> February	Safety in the Home, Wiltshire Fire Brigade
27 <sup>th</sup> February	Work of the BRCS, Melanie Bell

## FOR PRAYER IN FEBRUARY

We pray

- for the renewal of our prayer and discipleship this Lent
- for the Lent School and ecumenical house-groups
- for our Bradford Group Ministry
- for the Church in the Sudan choosing a new leader
- for national leaders wrestling with the problems of the Middle East
- for the young people of our community

## **A Christmas story**

Preparations for the primary school Nativity Play were going well. Little Jack was very pleased to be playing Joseph because he was rather keen on the little girl who had been chosen to be Mary. A few days before the performance, however, Jack was rather naughty in class: he was told by his teacher that as a punishment he was no longer to be allowed to play Joseph, and must be the Innkeeper instead. He was upset at the thought of not being able to walk with his arm round Mary on the long, cold trek up the school hall to Bethlehem, but he seemed to accept his reduced status without too much fuss.

The last few days of preparation were completed, and the great day arrived. With the School Hall full of parents, teachers, fellow pupils, and with the Vicar from the local church sitting in the front row with the headmistress, the performance began. The familiar story unrolled and Mary and Joseph arrived in the town tired and hungry. Joseph knocked on the inn door, and the Innkeeper promptly appeared. "We have travelled many miles, and my wife is very tired", said Joseph, "Have you a room for us for the night please?" "Yes, said the Innkeeper, "we've loads of room. Come on in.".....

### **A New Year Thank you from Tony and Joan.**

Thank to each one of you who helped in so many ways to ensure our Advent and Christmas services were so very memorable.

The beauty of the floral displays, the musical excellence of Gareth and the choir, the light of hundreds of candles, the provision of the wonderful Christingles and the welcoming pealing of the bells provided the seasonal enhancements for our special services.

What an excellent tableau we had again this year – our Sunday school providing a very modern look at the Christmas Story. Well Done.

The Christmas trees were decorated with many attractive parcels – boxes provided by the congregation and attractively wrapped by the Saxon Club. (We now have a good idea which cereals and pet foods are the congregation's favourites!)

Our spiritual needs were so well addressed by Bill, Angela and the Clergy Team, supported by the serving team and Peter our verger and all the sides-people, coffee makers and readers gave unstintingly of their time.

## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - OFFICERS

Canon Bill Matthews (Chairman)	Tony Haffenden (Churchwarden)
Joan Finch (Churchwarden & V/C)	Jeremy Lavis (Hon. Secretary)
Dr Malcolm Walsh (Hon. Treasurer)	Revd Angela Onions (ex officio)

Pat Astill	Graham Baldock
Pauline Bates	Karen Bowen-Nielsen
Janet Brown	Michelle Carter
Bob Cherry	<i>vacancy</i>
Mary Ford	Trevor Ford
Bryan Harris	Ann Holland (Publicity Officer)
June Harrison	Anne Willis
John Woods	
Cecilia Hynes-Higman	

### STANDING/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Vicar; Churchwardens; Secretary; Treasurer.

### CHURCHWARDENS EMERITI

Norman Hanney, Jeremy Lavis, Mike Fuller, Anne Carter

### FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

<b>Patron:</b> Dr Alex Moulton	<b>Chairman:</b> Bob Cherry
<b>Secretary:</b> <i>vacancy</i>	<b>Treasurer:</b> John Woods
<b>Committee:</b>	Anne Carter; Bryan Harris; Jeremy Lavis; Revd Angela Onions; Mike Smith
Ex officio:	Canon Bill Matthews; Joan Finch; Tony Haffenden

### PARISH NEWS:

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### BRADFORD GROUP MINISTRY

This comprises the three benefices of Holy Trinity, Christ Church with Westwood and Wingfield, and Monkton Farleigh, South Wraxall and Winsley. The clergy meet regularly for prayer and shared planning, and there is an informal Group Council consisting of the licensed clergy and

## OTHER OFFICERS & ORGANISERS

PCC Secretary	Jeremy Lavis	863600
PCC Treasurer	Dr Malcolm Walsh	862702
Bellringers	Phil Gaisford	863538
Bookstall	Revd Angela Onions	309001
Brass Cleaning	Chris Hodge	863543
Brownies	Jennifer Hazell	863860
Choir	Gareth Bennett	01380 728772
Church Stewards	David Milne	864341
Church Hall Bookings	Anne Carter	862146
		or 07981 742361
Coffee on Sunday	George and Ivy Hurst	868795
Display Co-ordinator	Revd Angela Onions	309001
Electoral Roll Officer	Pat Irving	862903
Flowers	Jonquil Burgess	868905
Guides	Judith Holland	866215
Midsummer Market	David Rawstron	862224
Mothers' Union	Chris Hodge	863543
MU Prayer Circle	Chris Hodge	863543
Publicity Officer	Ann Holland	862731
Servers	Mary Ford	868587
Sidesman's Rota	Joan Finch	863878
Stewardship Secretary	Brian Netley	866121
Sunday School	Karen Bowen-Nielsen	07732 786440
Verger	Peter Wills	867593

### Parish Representatives on other organisations:

Bradford Group Council:	The Churchwardens
Children's Society:	Anne Carter
Christian Aid:	Jonquil Burgess
Deanery Synod:	Bob Cherry; June Harrison; Revd. Angela Onions; Dr Malcolm Walsh; John Woods; Anne Willis (Deanery Information Officer)
Churches Together:	David Rawstron

*Cover picture from a drawing by Frances Taylor.  
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