

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Bradford on Avon



PARISH NEWS

FEBRUARY 2008

web edition

DIRECTORY

Vicar

Canon Bill Matthews The Vicarage, 18A Woolley Street 864444
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Ven John Burgess, Revd Alun Glyn-Jones,
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Pastoral Team

Alison Cook; Mike Fuller; Pat Kitchen; Sue Lavis; Revd Angela Onions;

Ministry of Healing

The Vicar; Mary Burge.

Times of Services

(Check Bulletins and notices)

Sundays 8 am Holy Communion
 9.30 am Sung Eucharist (coffee after)
 6 pm Evensong
 Service of Prayer for Hope & Health
 and Compline monthly)

Holy Communion 10 am Wednesdays

(weekdays) 8 am Fridays

Times of Meetings

Choir Practice 6.45 pm Church, Tuesdays

Sunday School 9.30 am Church Hall

Mothers' Union 7.30 pm Church Hall, (usually) 3rd Thursday

Bell Practice 7.30–9 pm 2nd and 4th Mondays

Parish Web-site www.brad-avon-ht.org.uk

Diocese Web-site www.salisbury.anglican.org

Weekly Bulletin Notices to the Vicar not later than Wednesday for
the next Sunday.

Please let the Vicar know if someone needs visiting at home or in hospital

FROM THE VICAR

One of the minor problems that we Christians face is having a church calendar which is partly based on the calendar year, which marks the rotation of the earth on its axis, and partly on the lunar month, which is based on the rotation of the moon around us. The upshot of this is that Easter, this year, is quite incredibly early, and schools will be working on until Maundy Thursday. But, because Lent is also therefore early, it is a matter of urgency to start thinking about it, and how we are going to use it.

I find it significant that the three gospels which portray Jesus as spending a time of preparation in the wilderness before the start of his ministry also describe his baptism by John in the Jordan. An important part of that picture is the descent of the Holy Spirit upon Jesus. And the Spirit is the link between the baptism and the wilderness. Jesus is 'led up by the Spirit into the wilderness' according to Matthew, 'led by the Spirit in the wilderness' according to Luke, and 'the Spirit *immediately drove* him out into the wilderness' according to Mark (NRSV Bible).

In the course of its history, the church has tended to speak of Lent as a sort of 'wilderness experience', with a good deal of emphasis on repentance, giving up and giving. And undoubtedly, some of the little disciplines that people practise have a real benefit at the time, if only because they make us more aware of our need to be obedient to God, and to the demands he makes upon us.

But our Lenten practices can distract us from what is really important, if, for instance, we spend all our leisure moments regretting the temporary loss of some pleasure, and looking forward to the time when we can re-institute it in our lives!

Surely the Gospel accounts teach us that it is openness to the Spirit that is of the very first importance. Our giving up or our giving needs to be focussed on that. If we are to be truly open to the presence and power of God in our lives, what we need to give, above all, is time and attention. Time spent on prayer, on learning about the faith, on really concentrated worship, is time truly well spent. It doesn't excuse us from our social duties as Christians, but it will certainly guide and inform them. The gift of time is a precious one to busy people. God deserves no less from us.

Bill Mattes

DIARY FOR FEBRUARY



3 SUNDAY

9.30 am
6 pm

CANDLEMAS

Solemn Eucharist
Compline

6 Wednesday

10 am
7.30 pm

ASH WEDNESDAY

Holy Communion & Imposition of Ashes
Sung Eucharist & Imposition of Ashes

7 Thursday

2.30/7.30 pm

Lent School 1

Hall

10 SUNDAY

9.30 am
6 pm

LENT 1

Family Communion
Evensong

Christ Church

14 Thursday

2.30/7.30 pm

Lent School 2

Hall

17 SUNDAY

9.30 am
6 pm

LENT 2

Sung Eucharist & Holy Baptism
Service of Prayer for Hope and Health

18 Monday

2.30/7.30 pm

Lent School 3

Hall

21 Thursday

7.30 pm

Mothers' Union 'A DIY Evening'
(Ian and Sylvia Stanes)

Hall

24 SUNDAY

6 pm

LENT 3

Sung Evensong

25 Monday

7.30 pm

Friends of Holy Trinity Presentation:
'Bradford on Avon - Shaping the
Future' (Len Turner)

Hall

Unless otherwise stated, Holy Communion at 8 am and Sung Eucharist at 9.30am each Sunday

Copy Date for March is 10th February

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

20.1 Daniel Stephen Heard

18.1 Irene Maud Allison

21.1 Winifred Mary Adelaide Wise

Funerals

13.12 Alan Robert Briars (Westwood)

21.1 Elizabeth Anne Ticehurst

12.1 David Hubert Stevens

22.1 Merlys Howells

HOLY TRINITY MOTHERS' UNION

We held our annual Christmas party on 10th January, a very wild and wet day, but fortunately, the rain eased off in the evening, and we had a record turnout of 25 of our 26 members, plus 7 visitors. They had a warm reception, as the committee had been working since 5.45pm, and the Church Hall was well heated. A quiz by Mary Ford started the proceedings, with a lot of help, (and cheating) going on. Supper (the Bring and Share variety) followed, and most people went back for second helpings, it was so good. The puddings, too, took quite a beating, and there wasn't much left to be taken home. Two teams did the washing up, and Mary Dawson did an excellent flower quiz. We had a massive raffle of a great many prizes, some of which had to be forced on people who had already won one, so that we could get rid of them!

Chris followed with an item she had been sent, called "The Humble Bra", which was hugely enjoyed. The committee then performed a one-line pantomime of "Snow White", provided by Ian. Supposed to be done deadpan, the committee was having difficulty in not laughing before the end. The audience thought it was hilarious, and we promised to give them "Cinderella" next year! Another short quiz followed, before we closed with prayer after a very enjoyable evening together.

In the week that the rains came, I had to check Church Street on the morning of our meeting, to see if we could get down there! However, the road was clear, and the rain in the afternoon was not sufficient to cause problems. For us, anyway! Consequently 19 members turned up for the Corporate Communion in Church, with Janet reading the Lesson, Mary Nutt the Gospel, and Marlene doing some wonderful Intercessions, obviously having put a lot of time and thought into them. We then adjourned to Church Hall for the AGM where we had to have some notices of things happening in the next few weeks, despite the fact that it is supposed to be an AGM. Having heard Mary Dawson's minutes of last year's meeting, we were quite glad that the AGM notices had been so much shorter! Beryl reported that our finances were in good order, having been audited by Mike Wilkins, and we are very grateful to him for that service. We have already sent £200 to the Overseas Fund, and have another £100 earmarked to go shortly. Being Treasurer is not an easy job, but Beryl said she'd enjoyed her first year of doing it, and we're certainly very grateful to her.

My report went back over our meetings in the last year, which have already been reported on in the magazine, and I was able to tell the branch that we have been asked to celebrate Mary Sumner Day in our church again this year, the 10th Anniversary of when we started it, and that Richard Press, a former curate at Holy Trinity, is coming back to preach for us. I thanked the branch for being such a happy and supportive group, reminding them that this year our theme is "Time for Relationship", and we should all be doing all we can to make our relationships work, for the MU, our church, and our parish.

Chris Hodge

Sunday School News

GROWING



Holy Trinity

Sunday School

LEARNING

The nativity play seems like a distant memory now, but it is never too late to say "well done!" Unfortunately I was not there to see it myself, but by all accounts it was well performed and well received. It is therefore only fair that I publish the list of credits and let everyone know who the stars were.

The Credits

Jonathan, the Innkeeper's son
Mary
Joseph
Shepherds

Gabriel
The Kings

Balthazar (Myrrh)
Caspar (Frankincense)
Melchior (Gold)

Production

Music
Author
Co-author
Lighting
Producers
Director

James Stevenson
Olivia Miller
Hugh Johnston
Frances Pengelly, Thomas Hawkins
and Haydn Penny
Alice Ash

Rebecca Hawkins
Thomas Stevenson
Elliot Pengelly

Muriel Freeborn
Annabel Bowen-Nielsen
James Stevenson
David Milne
Thomas Stevenson & Thomas Hawkins
June Harrison

Special thanks to Thomas Stevenson and Thomas Hawkins who helped out behind the scenes, then stepped in at the last minute to fill in gaps in the cast, and also to Alison Penny who stepped in as Mary at the dress rehearsal.

Karen Bowen-Nielsen

PARISH PROFILE

Stephanie Moorfoot



Photo Mark Moorfoot

In 1947, Stephanie was born in Stoke-on-Trent, the eldest of three girls. Her father was the manager of a Pottery factory and he also worked for Royal Doulton china. She was brought up a Roman Catholic and attended St. Dominic's Convent School which she left in 1964, starting work at the National Provincial Bank, (now the NatWest).

As organizing secretary of the Young Conservatives in 1970 she met Mark and arranged for him to go ice-skating with the group. In 1972 they were married and 8 months later moved to Preston where Mark, as an accountant, worked for a large Bakery Group. Two years later he changed to become Chief Accountant at a meat processing factory in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk. They settled in Wickham Skeith where Emma was born in 1976 and then Guy in '78. They attended a very small church there, St. Andrew's C of E, where their children were baptised.

When Mark joined Matchbox Toys in London they decided to move to Stansted, Essex, and on a Friday in January '80 they moved into their new home, only to hear the following Monday that the firm had offered Mark, 6 months in New Jersey, USA. Obtaining visas etc. swiftly followed and Mark went on 23rd January, followed by Stephanie and family on 15th February. They had two more children Nicholas in '82 and Richard in '85, and being still in the USA they had bought a house in '83 in Franklin Lakes, New Jersey.

Stephanie was anxious for the children to have religious education, so they attended Franklin Lakes United Methodist Church where Stephanie taught 6-9 year olds in Sunday School for 10 years until 1992, and she was also Church Financial Secretary and a handbell choir member. In

2003 and '04 she was the representative of the congregation working with the Minister.

The family had a very busy and happy life in New Jersey, with visits from UK relatives who enjoyed all the sightseeing. The 6-month appointment eventually stretched to 26 years! Stephanie had various commitments, such as leader of a Brownie and Girl Scout group for 5 years and Founding member and Pack leader of a Cub Scout Pack for 10 years. She was also very involved with their children's schools PTAs as well as serving for 2 years as a volunteer at an Adult Day Care centre.

When Emma decided she would like to study medicine, she applied to London and was delighted to be accepted at Guy's and Thomas's Hospital for the five years. Matchbox toys closed in London, and Mark, as their chief accountant, had to wind up the business in New Jersey. They returned to the UK in 2006 and have decided Bradford-on-Avon would suit them, they bought their house here.

Stephanie joined Holy Trinity church and is now a church steward. She also belongs to Bath Golf Club and Trowbridge Tennis club. Two sons, Guy and Nicholas, work in London, but the youngest son, Richard, is still in Connecticut, USA, working for Price, Waterhouse as a trainee accountant. Emma qualified as a doctor in June and is now doing her first 2 years at the RUH and delighted to be living in Bath. Stephanie is enjoying life here and says how welcome she was made at Holy Trinity.

Pat Kitchen

Love in a bag

I asked my nephew whether he had bought his wife anything for Valentine's Day. "Yes", he said, "I bought her a belt and a bag."
"That was very nice of you", I replied, "I hope she appreciated the thought."

He said, "So do I, and hopefully the vacuum cleaner will work better now."

Crossword solutions

Standard 14 Jew 15 Rod 19 Elijah 21 Final 22 Jewel 23 Asher
1 Spire 2 Abate 3 Viola 4 Elisha 6 Orthodox 7 Abbatial 12 Parables 13
Down

Oholah 18 Wed 20 Saint 24 Citizens 25 Clean 26 Nazarene 27 Aside
5 Royal 8 Publicly 9 Stubs 10 Ruthless 11 Forth 14 Jar 16 Battle 17
Across

The Presentation of Christ in the Temple: Candlemas, February 2nd

In bygone centuries, Christians said their last farewells to the Christmas season on Candlemas, 2nd February. This is exactly 40 days after Christmas Day itself. In New Testament times 40 days old was an important age for baby boys: it was when they made their first 'public appearance'. Mary, like all good Jewish mothers, went to the Temple with Jesus, her first male child – to 'present him to the Lord'. At the same time, she, as a new mother, was 'purified'. Thus we have the Festival of the Presentation of Christ in the Temple.

So where does the Candlemas bit come in? Jesus is described in the New Testament as the 'Light of the World', and early Christians developed the tradition of lighting many candles in celebration of this day. The Church also fell into the custom of blessing the year's supply of candles for the church on this day – hence the name, Candlemas.

Ash Wednesday, Feb 6th

Lent begins with Ash Wednesday. But why 'Ash' Wednesday? The reason has to do with getting things right between you and God, and the tradition goes right back to the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, the Israelites often sinned. When they finally came to their senses, and saw their evil ways as God saw them, they could do nothing but repent in sorrow. They mourned for the damage and evil they had done. As part of this repentance, they covered their heads with ashes. For the Israelites, putting ashes on your head, and even rending your clothes, was an outward sign of their heart-felt repentance and acknowledgement of sin.

In the very early Christian Church, the yearly 'class' of penitents had ashes sprinkled over them at the beginning of Lent. They were turning to God for the first time, and mourning their sins. But soon many other Christians wanted to take part in the custom, and to do so at the very start of Lent. They heeded Joel's call to 'rend your hearts and not your garments' (Joel 2:12-19). Ash Wednesday became known as either the 'beginning of the fast' or 'the day of the ashes'.

The collect for Ash Wednesday goes back to the Prayer Book, and stresses the penitential character of the day. It encourages us with the reminder of the readiness of God to forgive us and to renew us. The Bible readings for today are often Joel 2:1-2, 12-18, Matthew 6: 1-6,16-21 and Paul's moving catalogue of suffering, "as having nothing and yet possessing everything" (2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10).

The actual custom of 'ashing' was abolished at the Reformation, though the old name for the day remained. Today, throughout the Church of England, receiving the mark of ashes on one's forehead is optional. Certainly the mark of ashes on the forehead reminds people of their mortality: "Remember that you are dust and to dust you will return..." (Genesis 3:19). The late medieval custom was to burn the branches used on Palm Sunday in the previous year in order to create the ashes for today.

The Collect for Ash Wednesday is:

Almighty and everlasting God,
You hate nothing that you have made
And forgive the sins of all those who are penitent:
Create and make in us new and contrite hearts
That we, worthily lamenting our sins
And acknowledging our wretchedness,
May receive from you, the God of all mercy,
Perfect remission and forgiveness;
Through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord,
Who is alive and reigns with you,
In the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, now and for ever.

Source: Parish Pump

Thoughts from Cardinal Basil Hume On Grief

Grief cannot be shared, for it is mine alone.
Grief is a dying within me,
a great emptiness, a frightening void.
It is loneliness,
a sickening sorrow at night,
on awakening a terrible dread.
Another's words do not help,
a reasoned argument explains little
for having tried too much.
Silence is the best response to another's grief,
not the silence that is a pause in speech,
awkward and unwanted,
but one that unites heart to heart.
Love, speaking in silence, is the way into the
void of another's grief.
The best of all loves comes silently, and
slowly too, to soften the pain of grief, and
begin to dispel the sadness.
It is the love of God, warm and true,
which will touch the grieving heart and heal it.
He looks at the grieving person and has pity, for
grief is a great pain.
He came among us to learn about grief
and much else too, this Man of Sorrows.
He knows. He understands.
Grief will yield to peace – in time.

Supplied by Margaret Purves

OUR FAVOURITE MUSIC

How incredibly difficult – it all depends on one's mood! So we shall give our choice of 'Desert Island Discs'. Many years of choral singing have been so uplifting and memorable that our selection is heavily biased that way. Verdi's *Requiem* still thrills and sends shivers down the spine, even though we have sung it many times. Bernard Levin recounts how, after a frustrating day at work, he found that listening to the *Dies Irae* at full volume lying on the floor restored him to sanity! To us the beautiful *Libera Me* for soprano solo with unaccompanied chorus seems to be a glimpse of heaven – and the following (surprisingly difficult) fugue makes a masterly climax to this very spiritual work – from a non-believer! Mahler's Eighth Symphony (*Symphony of a Thousand*) haunts us still; the voices are almost part of the orchestra, and there are beautiful tender moments as well as the incredible fortes. We first sung *The Dream of Gerontius* more than 40 years ago. What a way to reach heaven – even Purgatory seems bearable with Elgar's inspired music, and the moment when the soul sees his maker in a flash is another spine-chilling moment.

Our Desert Island would not be complete without some non-choral pieces, but we would want to take our whole CD collection! So here's a (fairly random) selection. Nick was never good enough to master the Mozart horn concertos but their haunting melodies and playful mood is the epitome of how the classical structure can still yield some of the greatest music. Many of Chopin's piano works, and particularly his piano concerto, demand a place. Some of the easier pieces are possible for a very amateur Nick, but Frederick and Clara were both virtuosi so not unsurprisingly many of his works are

significantly more difficult. Opera is another must, and if we choose just one work it would have to be Puccini's *Tosca*: a story of love, passion, jealousy and greed but with the most amazing and moving romantic music. Then in a more light-hearted vein we have Gilbert and Sullivan's *Iolanthe* and a Flanders and Swan CD. It must be fun to be a hippopotamus enjoying the mud, we're sure Mozart would also have enjoyed their version of the rondo from his fourth horn concerto – one of the great patter songs – and when we go to Madeira later this year we shall definitely *Have some Madeira M'Dear*.

We must also have some French music. Happily Debussy's sublime piano music is mostly within Nick's competence and every note counts – just as it does in the music of Mozart and Chopin. The impressionistic colours of his music never failed to move and delight. We're feeling greedy so we'll slip in a couple of extra CDs. Mary would also like Widor's *Fifth Symphony* (not just the toccata!), and Nick hankers after great choir/Cathedral music: some carols such as Harold Darke's *In the Bleak Midwinter*, Pearsall's wonderful version of *In Dulci Jubilo* and Cornelius's *The Three Kings*, with anthems such as *Blessed Be the God and Father* by Wesley, *O for the wings of a Dove* by Mendelssohn and *The Gaelic Blessing* by Rutter. Our last choice has to be choral again: Mozart's *Requiem*. It never fails to amaze us how, after over 200 years of progress and change, this work still seems as fresh and compelling, although written by a dying man and finished by his pupil. We cannot prove the existence of God of course, but divine inspiration certainly exists.

Nicholas and Mary Nutt

THROUGH THE ROOF

(Adventures of a drama teacher)

Some years ago, while teaching in a very large comprehensive school, I was 'given' a class of boys with learning difficulties and emotional problems. They were between 13 and 14 years old - and I don't know about learning difficulties because they ran rings round me the first time we met. Luckily there were only about fifteen in the class, so when during our first encounter they spotted a hole in the roof and, before you could blink, had dragged a table and a chair underneath the said hole and gone through it. I was able to get them down 45 minutes later, just before the bell went! Obviously a new strategy was needed.

The following week I arrived a few minutes late to make sure the boys were all there. Ignoring them I walked, head down, to the middle of the room, sat down on the floor and began to cry.

The arrogant chatter about what they were planning to do today gradually broke off, to be followed by a lot of rather anxious whispering. A few minutes later the boys, now down to my level, on their knees, crawled across the floor towards me, and a brave soul whispered: "What's the matter, Miss?"

"My name's Simon, and I'm really frightened as I have to fight a dragon and I don't know how to" and I sobbed violently.

A lot of hasty discussion followed, then a big lad stood up and said "Don't you worry, Simon, we'll help you. My dad's got a JCB and that will flatten any dragon".

And we were off.

Over the following weeks the magic of what is known as 'educational drama' took over. The boys were faced with a giant spider, a robot, a shape-shifting dragon (all me) and all in situations that needed problem-solving skills. Then I would appear as Simon saying that I had been too frightened and had been hiding and I didn't know what had happened. The boys would then recount to me what they had done and how they had outwitted all these other characters - all rôle-played by me! It is a true delight and one of the great joys of this type of drama that children of all ages respond in this way and truly 'suspend disbelief.'

And the purpose of telling this story? Well, often when becoming Simon and handing to the boys the responsibility of the drama action, I'd remember the words of Jesus, "Unless you become as a little child..." and muse on the fact that by doing so I, and the boys, had had a real fun time and a huge amount had been achieved.

Liz Netley

St Valentine's Day, Feb 14th

There are two confusing things about this day of romance and anonymous love-cards strewn with lace, cupids and ribbon: firstly, there seem to have been two different Valentines in the 4th century – one a priest martyred on the Flaminian Way, under the emperor Claudius, the other a bishop of Terni martyred at Rome. And neither seems to have had any clear connection with lovers or courting couples.

So why has Valentine become the patron saint of romantic love? By Chaucer's time the link was assumed to be because on these saints' day – 14th February – the birds are supposed to pair. Or perhaps the custom of seeking a partner on St Valentine's Day is a surviving scrap of the old Roman Lupercalia festival, which took place in the middle of February. One of the Roman gods honoured during this Festival was Pan, the god of nature. Another was Juno, the goddess of women and marriage. During the Lupercalia it was a popular custom for young men to draw the name of a young unmarried woman from a name-box. The two would then be partners or 'sweethearts' during the time of the celebrations. Even modern Valentine decorations bear an ancient symbol of love – Roman cupids with their bows and love arrows.

There are no churches in England dedicated to Valentine, but since 1835 his relics have been claimed by the Carmelite church in Dublin.

Source: Parish Pump



Henry is making a real effort for Lent – he's giving up the remote control and walking to the TV

Bradford Area Churches Together



The first meeting of Bradford Churches together in 2008 was held in the Quaker Meeting Room on January 14th. It was well attended by over 15 delegates from local churches and Christian organisations, and presided over by the Chairman, Ambrose Stickney of St Thomas More. Also present at the meeting was the Rev. Maurice Munns, the Wiltshire County Ecumenical Officer.

The Chairman's opening address broached the subject of changes to congregation numbers in different localities – he mentioned an increase in those attending services at St Thomas More, and he especially mentioned an increase of 1,000 worshippers at a particular Catholic church in Swindon where many Polish migrants had moved into the area to seek employment! Other churches were experiencing reducing populations and in the very long term decisions would have to be made about how many places of worship we would be able to sustain in Bradford. Ambrose concluded by stating that it was a commitment to Christian unity, recognising our similarities and not our differences, and by understanding our respective beliefs without diluting our own, which would make a difference to the longevity of each place of worship.

The Treasurer (Reg Green, Christ Church) told us that funds were particularly low and that BACT would probably be marginally in the red before all the payments for the York Lenten course had been collected. BACT is not a fundraising organisation, but exists to facilitate others. However, our annual running cost is in excess of £400 a year, and with a total of ten church groups each paying £30 towards our expenses it did not seem surprising that BACT would be going into the red! Accordingly it was carried unanimously that for 2008, member church groups would be asked for a donation of £50 each so that BACT can continue to function.

Other items on the agenda

Lent Groups: A very good response has been received from member church groups; well attended and well organised Lent courses will commence on time.

Week of Christian Unity: There had been some misunderstandings about the availability of the United Church and a minister to lead the service which had been planned for 20th January. Consequently, it was decided that it was not possible to organise a service on this date, and another date would be found. After some discussion it was decided to hold the Christian Unity service together with the Pentecost service on Sunday May 4th. Subject to confirmation, the service will be held in the Sports Hall at St Laurence School as this venue hosted the very successful Millennium service organised by BACT.

Homelessness Sunday - January 27th: It was intended that prayers for the homeless would be offered at member churches, rather than holding a specific service this year.

Hope 2008: (see below) This is a very dynamic organisation which originated in London and started in Bradford with a prayer group at Bearfield Church in November 2004. The group prayed for Christian unity and to be able

to demonstrate Christ's work through their work in the community, and to date the group has been very successful. They believe that it's now time to be seen to have the blessing of recognised churches in the area, and BACT members agreed that we should adopt and help to develop Hope 2008's ideals. An Ecumenical Service will be held in St. Margaret's Hall on Sunday 27th January at 6pm. More information about this group will be circulated as soon as it becomes available.

Women's Day of Prayer: will be celebrated on Friday 7th March.

The Venue: For almost 2½ years this young persons' centre, located at the Riverside Inn has been running successfully. However, there are now some problems concerning the continued use of the Inn and of finding adults to give up their time for the benefit of the youngsters in the town. Regrettably, the project is on hold until these problems can be address and solved. However, another project aimed at supporting mothers and children up to 5 years, is due to open at Fitzmaurice School where it is intended to construct a special building in the school grounds. 20 such centres are to be opened across Wiltshire and it is fully expected that church groups will find an involvement with, and be fully supportive of this venture.

Faithworks: is still working at opening its Debt Advice Service in Bradford, hopefully utilising an upstairs room once a week at the Library. They are closely liaising this community service with Hope 2008, and it has been proposed that the title be expanded into 'Hope Debt Advice Service'. Watch this space.

The next BACT meeting, being the AGM, will be on 14th April and I look forward to reporting to you all again then. Anyone from our parish can attend this meeting, so please contact me if you feel so inclined.

David Rawstron

HOPE 2008

Hope 2008 is a national initiative by Christian Churches of all denominations to do more to work in their communities, by actively loving and serving those around them. Churches in Bradford on Avon and the surrounding areas will be working together, providing practical and spiritual support to all ages within our community.

A programme is being planned to offer a range of services including reaching out to the lonely and isolated, having a barn dance and hog roast, providing a debt counselling service, and having a summer fun day. Local Churches are also committed to meeting together regularly for traditional Christian events *ie.* Lent courses, Easter walk of witness, harvest; as well as bi-monthly Open Heaven meetings in St. Margaret's Hall, where all are welcome.

Further details of planned activities will be advertised locally, and if anyone would like to suggest ideas or activities, please do not hesitate to contact me or your local Church minister.

Steve Hughes, Pastor, Bearfield Church.

First printed in the January edition of *The Gudgeon*: reproduced with permission

LOVE IN A BOX

In our December issue, we read Celia's report about the preparation and delivery of the shoe boxes which are collected each year for Operation Christmas Child. We know that these gifts bring happiness to many children who otherwise have little joy in their lives, but we rarely hear about this at first hand. However, Brian and Liz Netley have sent us an article from the magazine of their Parish from nearly 40 years ago which gives us directly an insight into the effect of a shoebox on one recipient. The charity concerned is the Samaritan's Purse, and the author of the following edited article tells of what happened after she showed a group of young people at her church a video showing the shoeboxes being distributed.

“As the group were leaving a young *au pair* came and quietly spoke to me. She told me that when she was a small child she had received a shoebox. Her name is Adi, short for Adrianna, and she is from Romania. She is one of five children from a very poor family. Adi's parents found it difficult to feed and educate their children and reluctantly decided to put the children into an orphanage. The children were separated and placed into five different orphanages, as that was the system. Adi was five years old, and she did not leave the orphanage for two years. The food was very basic — potato and water — and her clothes were shared. There were not many happy times in the orphanage for Adi except when, once a year, the children were visited by the charity Samaritan's Purse and each

child was given the gift of a shoe box — the only gift they received each year. Adi remembers with much fondness the contents of her first box, especially a small doll, which she kept under her pillow.

This was the first time I have met anyone who has received a shoe box. I asked Adi if she would come to youth group to tell us her story. She felt very anxious but agreed to come. A very nervous Adi arrived at Church on Monday evening. The teenagers sat quietly listening to a gently spoken Adi as she retold her story, also telling them about when she was moved to a new orphanage at the age of seven. Adi went to a state school. When she walked to school with the children from the orphanage other children threw stones at them, calling them names. At school they were left out of friendship groups and games. They were given no food for their lunch, there was little joy or happiness except, as Adi remembers, the gift of the shoe box, the high-light of the year. She kept her box safely hidden under her bed and treasured its contents.

When Adi was 11 she was moved to another orphanage where she was reunited with her brothers and sisters. When the children did well at school they were chosen to go on a holiday to England once a year, sponsored by the Samaritan's Purse charity, staying with English families. At 14 Adi visited her mother and at 16 she was able to move out of the orphanage to live with her

mum. When she was 20 she secured a work permit to come to England.

Adi told the teenagers how she longed to be able to feel her mother's arms around her as she felt so sad, empty and alone; she had a picture of God above her bed and she would pray to him every night knowing that He heard her prayers. That helped her to cope each day. The shoebox showed Adi that people did care. It gave her hope in a childhood that had little hope

or happiness. Adi is such a beautiful young woman, who has come through much hardship, being shown God's love in such a practical way. The teenagers sat in silence as they listened to her story. Some asked questions; they were all moved."

Source: The Parish Magazine of St Paul's Church, Addlestone, Surrey.
Supplied by Liz and Brian Netley.

LET YOUR LIGHT SO SHINE

A few weeks ago when folk were preparing for bed, in or just out of a bath, we experienced an unwelcome power cut. So general was it, that street lights, which would have helped one creep about, were also out. The darkness was very dark.

Thankfully a torch was near at hand but its light was extremely dim. Nevertheless, there was enough of it to break the immediate darkness, and with careful hesitant steps the stairs were negotiated and a candle was soon lit. The room sprang to life and even dark places beyond received its glow. It was a good test of the ability to cope in an emergency – albeit a minor one. New batteries were bought; a lesson had been learnt.

Coming home from Bath on a very wet and overcast day, the bus stopped at traffic lights. On the corner opposite was a large empty hotel; an ugly monstrosity of a building it was, boarded up, its future known or unknown. At night its many rooms and corridors must be in absolute blackness, an intermittent creak the only sign of existence. To be in such a place would give one no comfort, but an anxiety and overwhelming desire to be out of such a place into light, however dim.

On the 12th January a contrast in darkness was experienced. Seated in the Cathedral in Salisbury at the beginning of the Confirmation service, all lights in that huge space were turned off. Unaccustomed at first to sudden darkness we sat for some time watching the shadows of arch and pillar made by a lighter darkness which crept in from the night sky. Gradually light reached us from a candle shining at the far end of the Cathedral where Bishop Tim and the candidates were preparing to process.

And suddenly, all was light again; we could see, feel its inner warmth, were happy and content to be there and to stay within its embrace.

Muriel Freeborn



Pat and Willy Douglas surrounded by family at their Golden Wedding celebrations last year.

ARE YOU...



...a photographer?

We live in such a photogenic town that it is almost impossible not to be, and we thought that it would be interesting to see how you react to your surroundings when you are behind your camera.

During 2008 we would like, each month, to print in Parish News a photograph taken by one of our readers so as to explore, in these images, the life of the town and the way it changes through the year.

Photographs could be of the church or churchyard in its different seasons, or of something local that sums up life in this area for that month.

Email us a digital image (a JPEG or TIF image, preferably no smaller than 500kB) or hand an original print to one of us in church. We shall return prints after using them. If you send a coloured photo, it will appear in colour in the web version of Parish News, but the same picture will appear in black and white in the printed magazine.

The Editors

WILTSHIRE BUTTERFLIES – 2008/1

The last butterfly sighting I received for 2007 was that of a **Red Admiral** on 24th November by Muriel Freeborn. None were reported in December (which is normally the case) and it is unusual for any to be seen in January. The first butterflies are not usually seen until mid-March but any period of warm, sunny weather during February may encourage one or two of the winter hibernators to take flight and the conspicuous yellow **Brimstone** is likely to be the first to be reported. I have just today heard that one was seen near Salisbury on Jan 8th, the second earliest ever Wilts record. The **Small Tortoiseshell** and **Peacock**, many of which will have spent the winter months in buildings may also be noticed in gardens, seeking out any scarce nectar sources from early spring flowers. Several that find their way into buildings (of which one or two are sometimes seen flying in our church), sadly, probably die before managing to find an escape route. Any early butterfly sightings would be very welcome.

©Mike Fuller, 9th Jan 2008

Wiltshire Butterfly Recorder

The Children's Society

Thank you all for your continued support of the Children's Society. Once again I have been able to bank contributions from your boxes, and always receive by return a letter of acknowledgement and appreciation.

£160 was also raised at the Christ Church Christingle Service, and a further £71.50 at a local Bring and Buy sale.

Those of you who know Iford Manor will be interested in a talk to be given by Michael Clayton, the Head Gardener, on Thursday, 28th February at 7.30pm in the Church Hall. Proceeds go to the Society.

Our Annual Quiz Evening has been arranged for Friday, 7th March at St Margaret's Hall.

This year we are re-thinking our house-to-house collection. It has been decided to focus on collections in town and local shopping areas. More details later.

Anne Carter.

BRADFORD ON AVON: SHAPING THE FUTURE

Len Turner, Partnership Manager of the West Wiltshire Economic Partnership, will give a presentation in the Church Hall on Monday 25th February, 2008, at 7.30pm. Watch out for further details on the weekly bulletin. Len is an extremely interesting speaker and can be relied to provide an insightful and humorous talk. Topics he is expecting to cover are:



registered charity number 900024

- The Five Town's Partnership and Bradford on Avon's rôle in this.
- An Economic Profile of Bradford on Avon and the town's role in West Wiltshire over the next 10 to 20 years
- Social issues that are currently affecting the town (and West Wiltshire) and any problems that people from the church may be able to help with
- The development programme going on in Trowbridge – with cinemas, ten pin bowling etc.- and other West Wilts towns
- Long term planning for Bradford on Avon and the likelihood of a town by pass
- How the national economic situation might affect us.

We look forward to a good attendance.

Bob Cherry
Chairman of The Friends of Holy Trinity Church

Ticket to ride

A former bishop of Exeter was renowned for his bad memory. On one occasion he was travelling by train to a certain part of his diocese. Before he reached his destination the ticket collector appeared demanding to see all tickets. The bishop groped his way through this pocket and that, inside his purple cassock and out, but no ticket could be found. Finally the ticket collector lost patience and said; "Tha's o'right bishop. We all know you's an harnest man. It don't matter."

"Oh, indeed it does!" replied the bishop. "Without that ticket I shan't know where to get off this train!"

Source: Parish Pump

for prayer in february

We pray:

- for our keeping of Lent
- for our Lent School and Lent Groups
- for the General Synod, meeting this month
- for the future shape of our community
- for the US Election campaign
- for Pakistan and Kenya
- for the work of the Environment Agency

Interfaith Group Meeting

The Buddhist Faith

Talk by John Harvey

Tuesday 19th Feb 2008 at 7.00pm

United Church, St Margaret's Street, Bradford on Avon

For further information contact Farzana Saker: 07834812663

Saxon Club Programme

February 2008

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

You are very welcome to join us.

February 5th Chris Hodge, A Cruise around the Black Sea
(to be held in Church)

February 12th Alison Abbot, The Rare Breeds Trust (t.b.c.)

February 19th Kat Saunders, The Courts Garden at Holt (t.b.c.)

February 26th Jon Durrant, More Videos (t.b.c.)

The Saxon Club goes from strength to strength. Five new members joined in January, including two gentlemen, bringing the membership up to 30.

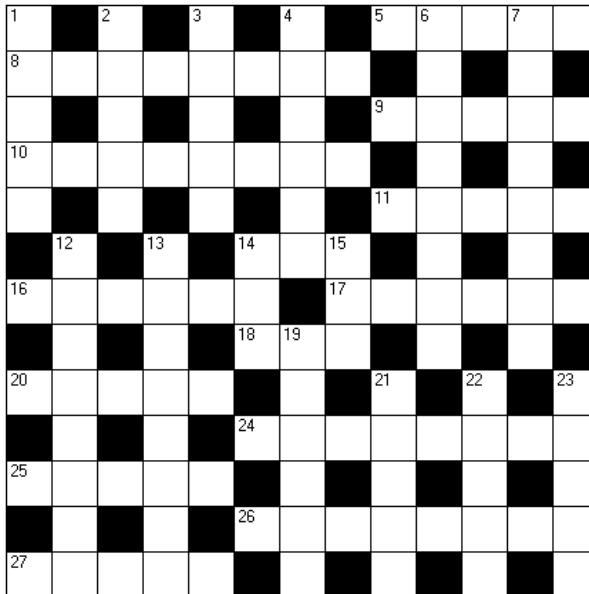
Quick Crossword (Bible version NIV)

Clues across

- 5 Regal, like the bride in Psalm 45 (5)
- 8 ..not _____, but in secret (John 7.10) (8)
- 9 The two in Isaiah ch. 7 are described as smouldering (5)
- 10 As cruel as the bible without its eighth book? (8)
- 11 Scottish river (5)
- 14 A woman in Matthew ch. 26 had an alabaster one (3)
- 16 For which the Philistines gathered at Pas Dammim in 2 Samuel ch. 23 (6)
- 17 Older of two prostitutes in Ezekiel ch. 23 (6)
- 18 Marry (3)
- 20 Person of great holiness (5)
- 24 All Israel, aliens and _____ alike (Jos 8.33) (8)
- 25 Joshua had such a turban put on his head in Zechariah ch. 3 (5)
- 26 Mark ch. 16 describes Jesus as such a person (8)
- 27 Stage whisper (5)

Clues down

- 1 Pointed top to a church tower (5)
- 2 Diminish (5)
- 3 Stringed instrument (5)
- 4 Son of Shaphat in 1 Kings ch. 19 (6)
- 6 Pertaining to the Eastern church (8)
- 7 Belonging to an abbey (8)
- 12 Stories told by Jesus (8)
- 13 ..using the cubit of the old _____ (2 Chr 3.3) (8)
- 14 eg Aquila in Acts ch. 18 (3)
- 15 He who spares it hates his son, according to Proverbs ch. 13 (3)
- 19 Tishbite prophet in 1 Kings ch. 17 (6)
- 21 ..transfer of property to become _____ (Ruth 4.7) (5)
- 22 Precious stone, to which Isaiah ch. 13 compares Babylon (5)
- 23 Second son of Jacob and Zilpah in Genesis ch. 30 (5)



Solutions on page 6.

Source: Parish Pump

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - OFFICERS

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

Pat Astill	Cecilia Hynes-Higman
Karen Bowen-Nielsen	Peggy Leach
Janet Brown	Dr Nick Nutt
Mary Burge	David Rawstron
Bob Cherry	Edward Shaw
Trevor Ford	Anne Willis
Bryan Harris	John Woods
June Harrison	

STANDING/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Vicar; Churchwardens; Secretary; Treasurer.

CHURCHWARDENS EMERITI

Norman Hanney, Jeremy Lavis, Mike Fuller, Anne Carter

FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Patron: Dr Alex Moulton

Secretary: *vacancy*

Committee:

Ex officio:

Chairman: Bob Cherry

Treasurer: John Woods

Anne Carter; Bryan Harris; Jeremy Lavis;

Revd Angela Onions; Mike Smith

Canon Bill Matthews; Joan Finch; Tony Haffenden

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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 churchwardens, with Readers. The Group was established in 1975.

OTHER OFFICERS & ORGANISERS

PCC Secretary	Graham Dove	868654
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	863984
Sidesman's Rota	Joan Finch	863878
Stewardship Secretary	Brian Netley	866121
Sunday School	Karen Bowen-Nielsen	07732 786440
Vergers	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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Parish News also appears (in colour) on the Holy Trinity website. Visit it at

<http://www.brad-avon-ht.org.uk/new-front/frameset.htm>

Previous issues of the magazine can also be found in the magazine archive at this address.