

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Bradford on Avon



PARISH NEWS
OCTOBER 2008

web edition

DIRECTORY

Vicar

Canon Bill Matthews The Vicarage, 18A Woolley Street 864444
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Ven John Burgess, Rev Alun Glyn-Jones,
Canon Peter Hardman, Ven Ian Stanes

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Graham Dove

Dr Malcolm Walsh (retired)

Churchwardens

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Director of Music

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;

Ministry of Healing

The Vicar; Mary Burge.

Times of Services

(Check Bulletins and notices or Church web site)

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 6.30 pm Church, Tuesdays

Junior Church 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

Holy Trinity 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.

FROM THE VICAR

I've just come back from St Laurence School after an afternoon which has marked my 'swansong' as Chairman of Governors. First we had our Foundation Day Service in church. This was followed by the customary flag ceremony at the school, when the two youngest year 7 students hoist the school flag, as they did when the new school was founded. Finally, I had the great privilege of opening the 'Independent Learning Centre' which is both a very attractive building, inside and out, and a tremendous addition to the school's provision for its students.

I commented that the title was important: schools these days, quite rightly, have to focus, not just on having the right teaching techniques in place, but on what the student actually learns, retains and uses. And encouraging 'independent' learning is very important on two fronts. Students need to become selective and discriminating about the mass of material available to them, both in book form, and increasingly on the internet. And there is a close correlation between the amount of effort and commitment that a student puts into the learning process, and the long-term usefulness of what is learned.

This isn't just a truism about young people and their learning ability. It's something that applies to us all, whatever our age.

And it has a particular significance for us as Christians. Jesus's first followers were originally called 'disciples', which means 'students' or 'learners'. Subsequently they were called 'apostles', which basically means 'people with a mission'. They had first to learn, before they could communicate.

But they didn't stop being learners while they were involved in the Church's mission. They had to go on learning what 'the Spirit says to the churches', in the words of the author of Revelation. And the Spirit was speaking to them in a whole number of ways, through their own experience, through the experience of others, through their growing understanding of the meaning of Jesus in the light of the Jewish scriptures, and in their wrestling with the problems of admitting as members non-Jews, with all the pagan concepts they frequently brought with them.

'Independent learning' is the continuing task for each of us in our Christian lives. This doesn't mean going off on some strange tangent of our own. It simply means appropriating into our own lives what we can of the shared Christian experience down the ages, and working out for ourselves how best to respond to the Christian message in love and obedience.

Bill Malpas

DIARY FOR OCTOBER



5 SUNDAY

9.30 am

DEDICATION FESTIVAL

Solemn Eucharist & Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of Priesting of the Ven John Burgess

6 pm

Compline

10 Friday

8 am

Paulinus, Bishop of York

12 SUNDAY

9.30 am

TRINITY 21

Sung Eucharist

6 pm

Evensong

Christ Church

15 Wednesday

10 am

Teresa of Avila, Teacher

16 Thursday

7.30 pm

Mothers' Union
Dorothy House Chaplain-K Crouch

Church Hall

17 Friday

8 am

Ignatius, Bishop of Antioch

19 SUNDAY

9.30 am

TRINITY 22

Family Communion

6 pm

Compline

26 SUNDAY

9.30 am

LAST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY

Sung Eucharist

6 pm

Sung Evensong

*Holy Communion at 8 am each Sunday
Copy Date for November issue is 12th October*

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptism

7.9 Isabel Charlotte Clementine Wilkins

Thanksgiving for Gift of Children

7.9 Harrison & Reuben Keyzar

Marriages

6.9 Scott George Lamont & Gemma Louise Kitchen

6.9 William Fairfax Cartwright-Hignett & Claire Blewett

14.9 Robert Arthur Charles Pearce & Suzanne Pinder

Funerals

8.9 Ruby Fell

HOLY TRINITY MOTHERS' UNION

I was surprised that so few members of the MU picked up the fact that the piece about the MU in the September magazine, was, in fact, written last year, and I sent the wrong piece to the Editor from my computer! I then had the cheek to accuse him of picking the wrong piece out of his computer, which, he assured me, couldn't have happened! I then realised that I hadn't cancelled my files. In the change-over to a new computer, my son-in-law, cancelled the piece I had written about this year's outing, and I've only just been able to recover it. Whether the Editor will have room to print that as well, I don't know. He has to put up with a lot from me, as our piece always arrives late owing to the lateness of our meeting each month. However, confession made, so on to our September meeting.

As we always do, we met in church, and started the programme with a Corporate Communion led by Bill. We were glad to see him so much better after his few days away. Then on to Church Hall for our meeting, to hear about his time as Mayor of Bradford by Peter Leach, son of Peggy, one of our members. Peter felt he had a lot more interesting things to say than just about his time as Mayor. He told us how he got on to the council in the first place, by being too "mouthy", as he put it, I know the feeling well! He had some interesting stories of meetings with Princess Anne, and what a star she is; and with the High Sheriff of Wiltshire, when he, Peter, asked for a pint of beer instead of a Bucks Fizz, and ended up drinking beer with the High Sheriff, and receiving a dozen bottles from him afterwards! He also regaled us with several stories of Robert Maxwell, whom he knew when he was employed in one of his printing companies. It was an entertaining, if somewhat surprising talk, as it was not what we were expecting. Beryl gave the vote of thanks, talking about the importance of the Mayor of the French villages, and how much they earn. We weren't surprised to hear that Peter's expenses were a lot less than the French ones. Drawing the raffle ticket out for the plant afterwards, it was his mother's ticket that came out of the box, much to her embarrassment!

At our meeting on October 16th, we look forward to welcoming Keith Crouch, the Chaplain at Dorothy House, to hear about his work there. I'm sure this will be very interesting, and do encourage anyone in the congregation to come and hear him.

September MU report: here is an abridged version of the report that should have appeared in the September Parish News

Our outing was in late July. Evelyn had suggested we visit Evesham as there was a very good deal there, giving you something to do for the whole day. We set off at 8.30am and arrived in Evesham at 10.15, spot on time for coffee, which was all ready and waiting for us. Over to the Almonry Centre, where we were able to enjoy the gardens. Our guide was amusing and entertaining, as well as knowing what he was talking about, and we all enjoyed our tour of a very ancient building, filled with relics from the past. We could have spent much longer there and I think some are planning to return, but I called everyone for Middyay Prayers, which weren't quite as I'd intended, as I found I'd left them at home!

After lunch some of us wandered through the shops, some walked along the river bank, watching the people in the park - it was one of the rare lovely days this summer!

At 3pm the boat arrived for our river trip, and we spent 45 minutes enjoying Evesham and the countryside from the water. We saw the sites which last year had been under water, marvelling at how high the river had risen in such a short time. It was a delightful trip, followed by a cream tea with lovely scones, jam and cream, followed by chocolate éclairs. It was soon 5pm and the coach arrived for our return journey. We arrived safely home soon after 7pm, tired and happy after a lovely day of fellowship and fun.

Saturday, August 9th, is set aside to remember our founder Mary Sumner. Holy Trinity hosted the first service for this 10 years ago, and we were lucky enough to be asked to do it again this year. I'd asked Richard Press, a former curate, to come back and preach. As our Deanery Chairman had invited the Archdeaconry to join us, we expected a full church, and everyone worked very hard to provide enough cakes for the occasion. Eighteen members of our branch turned out to help Joy, Leonard, Ivy and George with the refreshments, nearly everyone else was away. Pat had devised the service 10 years ago, and it was so good that I had just up-dated it. We had some splendid hymns, led by the choir, and were very grateful to them and Gareth for coming. We made £29 from the sale of cakes that day, and another £11 on Sunday, which together with the collection, enabled us to send over £150 to the Overseas Fund, where the money is much needed and does such good work.

Chris Hodge

SAINTS CORNER

October 8th: Demetrius of Sirmium

Demetrius should be the patron saint of anyone who takes a stand for the right, despite knowing that they will suffer for it. He was a soldier from Serbia in the fourth century. He fought for the Roman Emperor, and that took courage. Demetrius subsequently converted to Christianity and took his stand with the Christians. That took even more courage, for Demetrius was then tortured and martyred under the emperor Maxmian.

His bravery was not forgotten, and in the years to come he became immensely popular in the Church, where he was called 'The Great Martyr'. Christians thought of his example of faith and devotion to Jesus when they themselves were in trouble, and when they were facing attack from evil spirits and evil people.

Leontius, prefect of Illyricum, built two churches in honour of Demetrius in the early 5th century, one at Sirmium and one at Thessalonica. During the Crusades, Demetrius was 'adopted' by the western soldiers. Over 200 churches in the Balkans are dedicated to him, and he is today the patron saint of Belgrade.

Demetrius's fearless stand against evil makes him a good saint to be remembered in October, with Halloween coming.

Source: Parish Pump

Junior Church News

A new term, a new beginning. Sunday School is evolving and now has a new name: we are going to be called 'Junior Church'.

Although we have a new name we shall still have the familiar theme and activities as before. By sharing God's love we shall have lots of fun with Bible stories, prayers, time to talk, activities and singing (Muriel has kindly offered to come occasionally and play the piano for us). Children from three years and upwards will be very welcome.

Last week was our first session and although a little early we prepared a lovely Harvest Picture that Sue sketched and the children coloured in. The picture is already in church and you can see it on the Junior Church notice board.

What a lovely start to our new Junior Church — Gathering in the Harvest. We hope that we shall be gathering many more children so that we can guide them to be part of our Christian Family at Holy Trinity.

GROWING



LEARNING

Alison June and Sue

Why you are like a pumpkin?

Being a Christian is like being a pumpkin. God lifts you up, takes you in, and washes all the dirt off you. He opens you up, touches you deep inside and scoops out all the yucky stuff — including the seeds of doubt, hate, greed, *etc.*



Then he carves you a new smiling face and puts his light inside you to shine for the world to see.

PARISH PROFILE

Sue Platt



photo: Michael Platt

As a two-year old, Sue first attended church in the West Riding of Yorkshire with her grandmother. Her mother thought it a waste of time but Grandma thought you could absorb faith just by being there. Sue feels she has continued in that way – no revelation of faith but a sort of tenacity and the feeling of the ‘Love that will not let me go.’

Sue obtained her SRN at the old Charing Cross Hospital and then, at 23, went to Lancaster University as a mature student where she met Michael when both were studying philosophy. After obtaining her degree in French they were married and, when their first child, Maddy, was only six weeks old, moved to France, Michael having obtained a job there. They left London in cold, damp December to arrive on January 1st in the sunshine of the Riviera for a New Year with a new baby.

Following their return in 1982, Jonny was born. Their children speak French but Maddy particularly well as Sue started a French nursery school (L’Isle aux Enfants) with a French friend, which has since been adopted by the Lycée in South Kensington. The family attended St Mary Abbott’s church where Sue taught Sunday School.

From London the family moved to Wootton Bassett where Sue did night duty at the Prospect Hospice and then Freddy was born. Michael started his own business in the baby’s bedroom and, needing office space, they moved to Bath!

They have lived in Bath since 1989 where the business has grown and Sue has been involved in a variety of things because as a mother, she says, you need to be adaptable. She was a dinner lady at St Stephen’s school, a guide at the Museum of Costume, and she taught

French for a while at college; a French conversation class still survives from this time.

Sue was a translator for Tear Fund for eight years and became very involved in the material which could be a request for spare parts for a truck or blankets or footballs for a school, but there were also reports of bloodshed which were hard to translate.

Coming to Holy Trinity was quite by accident. She had taken a friend out for the day and was telling her of her difficulty in settling in a church in Bath. The friend said "Why don't you try that one?" with the result, Sue says, that she now sits in one of the friendliest pews in Wiltshire! She was also delighted to renew her acquaintance with Margaret Harris, with whom she had worked at the Ark Café in Bath. Sue has been a steward for three years and has met some lovely people, but finds the commuting a bit difficult. She still enjoys reading the lessons.

Her principal occupation is now working as one of the thirty bereavement counsellors for Dorothy House and teaching T'ai Chi, which she loves and has practised for 14 years; the Saxon club enjoyed a taster session recently.

Michael and Sue have been together for 35 years and share a similar outlook on life as both have 'endured' boarding school. He is a keen sailor but as Sue's theory is that it makes you 'bored, scared or sick' she tries not to go, preferring to garden. She loves cooking – makes bread for the MU stall at the street market – and seeing friends. Sue and Michael share a love of music, like walking, and in July rediscovered Ingleborough in a hailstorm. Much as she loves the north of England it is too cold for her to go back!

Pat Kitchen

Crossword solutions

Down
1 Arrows 2 Rings 3 Prevent 5 Oasis 6 Counsel 7 Weevil 9 Pentecost
12 Collect 13 Reading 14 Crumbs 15 Chicks 17 Creel 19 Image

Across
1 Abrupt 4 Moscow 8 Range 9 Pasture 10 Western 11 Sushi 12 Cathedral
16 Relic 18 Obadiah 20 Meekest 21 Isaac 22 Settle 23 Egress

A Day to Remember...

"The most exalted and exclusive club in the world does not meet very often — just once every two years in fact. And when it does, everyone tries to be there, particularly when there is a new member to be welcomed into its dwindling ranks.

Accompanied by their President, the Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall, the members of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association gathered in London yesterday to remember, to give thanks — and, above all, to enjoy each other's company."

These words appeared under the journalist Robert Hardman's name in the Daily Mail on Wednesday 10th September. The accompanying group photograph shows only two ladies, the Duchess of Cornwall and our own Margaret Purves. Margaret writes:

I was fortunate to be one of the 31 members of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association attending the 25th biennial reunion in London from 8th - 12th September. We have met regularly over the years, and it is now a very close-knit gathering of old friends. Members come from all over the world and when we are together it is as though we have never been apart. I have been fortunate over the past few years to meet up with friends from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa in their homelands, but meeting together in London is indeed very special. Our Patron, Her Majesty the Queen, and our President, His Royal



Members of the Victoria Cross and George Cross Association with their patron, the Prince of Wales, and the Duchess of Cornwall. phot:o: Mail on Line.

Highness the Prince of Wales, take a keen interest in our comings and goings, and often invite all of us to functions during the re-union.

This year, as always, our main event was the Service of Remembrance and Re-dedication in St Martin's in the Fields, which was attended by our President and the Duchess of Cornwall with representatives of many organisations associated with the countries and the military and civilian organisations from whence our members have come. Following the service we were invited to tea at St James's Palace where Their Royal Highnesses spoke to everyone at great length: after all, we have known each other for many years. Before The Prince of Wales became President, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was President and she always took a great interest in each and every one of us: this has been continued by her grandson. Although the Service is the focal point of our jollifications, the previous evening we were entertained by the Lord Mayor of London in the Mansion House. The day following the Service we were treated to a day out by the Marquis and Marchioness of Salisbury who provided us with an excellent lunch following a most interesting tour of Hatfield House.

On the last day, we finished our reunions with a dinner for all of the members and invited honoured guests before we dispersed to all corners of the world, hoping that in two years time we shall meet again and continue the camaraderie which is now so strong. Between the official functions we had lots of time to chat and enjoy each others' company. This year we were joined by the newest holders of the Victoria Cross, Corporal Willie Apiata VC of the New Zealand SAS, and Major Peter Norton GC RLC who was so horribly wounded in Iraq. Cpl Matt Crowcher GC, the latest award for extreme courage in Afghanistan, was unable to be with us because he had promised to be with a good friend at his wedding in California. The week was exhausting, but in a group with ages ranging from 22 to 97 I shouldn't complain. We know that next time there will be absent faces, but the friendship strengthens as the numbers decrease.

Margaret Purves

For those who don't know, Margaret saved the lives of a Boy Scout and his leader who had fallen into the sea of Scully Island in South Wales. She swam 30 yards to them and dragged them to safety at the age of 14 in 1949.

Sunday morning in Provence

Relax – *c'est dimanche* – relax it's Sunday. That's the attitude of the French in our village in the Var. Despite that, Sunday mornings are full of activity in the town square – families meeting friends or having a drink at the numerous cafés, the mayor strutting about greeting his cronies, and everyone out buying things for Sunday lunch.

Unlike in the UK, the hypermarkets and big DIY stores in the towns are closed on Sundays, but the French have their priorities – local food shops are open from 8am to mid-day to ensure everyone has fresh bread and something for the all-important lunch. In our village of just over 4,000 people there are three bakers – two selling delicious cakes and savouries as well as a wide variety of bread, two small but well-stocked supermarkets, a fresh fish shop, a butcher and two *traiteurs* for the French take on 'ready meals'. The *traiteurs* sell fresh pasta and sauces, home made pâté and meat products and often home-cooked dishes such as the classic provençal beef and wine stew – *daube*, or *petits farcies* – meat-stuffed courgettes, peppers and tomatoes as well as locally produced goat-milk cheese, olive oil and honey. The flower shop also does a good trade on Sundays selling elaborate bouquets and beautifully wrapped pot plants. A local smallholder sets up a stall by one of the cafés to sell cherries and vegetables picked from his garden that morning.

Once a month there is a *brocante* when everyone sets up tables down the main street to sell their bric-à-brac – not many bargains to be had but it creates a good atmosphere. Occasionally a local cycle race may pass through the centre of the village and, of course, on 14th July the mayor leads a procession of local dignitaries, the police chief and veterans to lay wreaths on the war memorial.

So with our copy of the international Sunday Times we relax with a coffee in the square and watch the world go by.



Daphne Hancock
photos: Malcolm Hancock

OUR SPIRITUAL STROLL

Inspired by a successful local walk in May celebrating the re-opening of the Well Path, and at the instigation of Tony Haffenden in recollection of days when we used to beat the bounds and of a walk round the parish in 1882 led by Canon Jones, a stroll around the parish taking the form of a mini-pilgrimage was held during the afternoon of Sunday 7th September.

About twenty people took part, undertaking activities such as cockle-shell collecting and making pilgrim badges, making and providing the ingredients for the shared cream tea, preparations of historical notes and prayers, and the opening up and closing of the church hall, in addition to designing and conducting the

that of Abram, and much later spiritually by *The Pilgrim's Progress*. In addition high points in our Christian heritage are associated with mountains: eg. renewal through Noah after the flood, the impending sacrifice of Isaac, the building of Jerusalem on a mountain top, the Transfiguration, the Crucifixion, and the Ascension. In recognition of where we are now the mini-pilgrimage started from our common home, the church of Holy Trinity, and journeyed towards its high point, St Mary Tory, passing through a series of stations on the way. At each station our walk was marked by the recitation of the Psalms of Ascent interspersed with other prayers, readings and

thanksgivings as appropriate, together with a little bit of local history.

Leaving our parish church we journeyed, with frequent stops along the way to remind ourselves of the changes which had taken place in the built environment, to the second station – the Tithe Barn. Here, led by Cecilia Hynes-Higman, the theme for our prayers and thanksgiving was Bread – the staff of life in all its aspects: the bread of the Eucharist, the bread we eat, the activities which

go on in the town through which people earn their bread, the places of recreation, transport systems, etc. In the historical notes given by Peter Wills we were also told that the Tithe



Some of the spiritual strollers.

photo: Tony Haffenden

programme for the walk itself and leading the worship at the various stopping points on our walk.

Life is a journey. Biblically this is witnessed by famous stories such as

barn was a misnomer – it should be the Great barn.

Our next station was the packhorse bridge. Our worship here was on the shore of the river by the rowing club's boat-launching ramp, which reminded us of Jesus meeting his disciples by the edge of the Sea of Galilee. Led by Janet Brown, the theme was river: crossing the Red Sea, crossing the river Jordan, the influence the river has had on the development of our town, current activities on the river, changes in career.

Climbing, we then came to our next station, the Lady Wells. Led by Marlene Haffenden, the theme was water: the water of baptism, water to cleanse us, water to drink to refresh us, another connection with the Eucharist with the water turned into wine, the Jesus's first sign. Jollity was added by the provision of a bag of toffees by Humphrey Yorke in commemoration of there having been a sweet shop nearby where children used to buy toffees on their way home from school.

Continuing the ancient pilgrim route up the Well Path, we then reached our high point, the chapel of St Mary

Tory, from where we surveyed our town and the whole of our journey. Led by Peter Hardman, the theme there was our own lives, where we had come from, where we were now going, outreach to the town, our beautiful environment, the journeys others have made to make our lives possible. This was followed by a short period of contemplation in the chapel.

Descending to the church hall *via* Tory and Middle Rank we shared in our pilgrimage meal of scones and cake, before going to our final station – the Saxon church. Here we joined with the other worshippers in the office of compline led by Bill Matthews, giving thanks for our Church in England which has ministered to people in this place for over 1,000 years – a fitting end to our spiritual stroll.

All in all it was an enjoyable activity with many people learning new ways through and new facts about our town and a little more about one another. Like the Church Fair we were blessed with dry weather all the way. Thanks to all concerned. Alleluia!

Malcolm Walsh

Feed my Sheep

Sunday 5th October will be the 50th Anniversary of John Burgess's Ordination to the Priesthood.

There will be wine/soft drinks, cake and various other nibbles, after the 9.30am Eucharist, as we should like the congregation to share in this special celebration.

Jonquil Burgess

BRADFORD AREA CHURCHES TOGETHER



The most recent meeting of the Bradford Area Churches Together was on 1st September in the Quaker Meeting Room. There were 12 people present from local churches and other Christian organisations (Tony Haffenden and David Hutchison attended for Holy Trinity in place of David Rawstron who was on holiday). In the absence of the Chairman, Ambrose Stickney, Peter Walker the Vice Chairman presided. He opened with prayer giving thanks for the Christian community in our town and for representatives coming together and meeting in such an open way. Peter thanked Wendy Brown for taking the minutes and Reg Green, the Treasurer, then gave a short report. He concluded that once all known commitments are met, *eg.* Wiltshire Churches Together and Lent Group Material, there should be a balance of around £100.

Other items on the agenda covered: -

Pentecost 2009: Denise Leigh reported that the sub-group of herself, Peter Walker, Jim Clarke and Kirsten Otley had met once. They had reviewed last year's activities and Denise gave us the shape of the proposed outline for 2009. The date has been set for 30th May 2009 starting at 10am with a procession of member churches across the Town Bridge to Westbury Gardens. Once assembled there will be short welcome followed by the massed choir (all choirs and music groups to participate) and Gareth Bennett is to be invited to act as Director of Music for the massed choir. Some bible

readings and prayers will follow.

At 10.45 various exhibitions and stalls will be opened and a programme of other organised activities begun. The group suggested that there should be a one-hour service starting at 3pm and that all activities should end at 5pm. The proposed programme will be sent to Minsters of all churches with an invitation to participate. It is important for each church to nominate their own co-ordinator (before 8th October) to ensure better communications and foster a spirit of openness and clarity. Member churches will be asked to say what kind of involvement/stand they would like to have at the event. Westbury Gardens have been provisionally booked

Sunday Evening – Open Heaven

meetings: Peter Walker asked if all member churches would consider joining in these services in St Margaret's Hall.

Homeless Week: Campaign against homelessness week is 31st January to 8th February. Being in the heart of the town and the largest church, Holy Trinity was suggested as a venue for a Churches Together Service. Canon Matthews is to be approached to check availability. An appropriate speaker is to be sought.

Venue for Churches Together

Meetings: It was thought to be a good idea for the Group to meet in some of the villages from time to time.

Lent Groups 2009: Denise announced her retirement from

organising these groups and others would be approached to take her place. Books need to be ordered in November and York Course Material needs to be decided by the 31st October. Group Leaders will also need to be appointed. Peter thanked Denise for her good work

Christmas Services: Peter floated the idea of all churches taking one page in the Wiltshire Times to promote Christmas services, times etc..

Ecumenical Accompaniment

Programme in Palestine: Judith Hammond has started on the programme, having spent the first three nights in Jerusalem at the Mount of Olives hotel. A copy of her first report was circulated. She will be giving a presentation on her activities on 27th February 2009 in St Margaret's Hall. Dr Andrew Murrison and Mayor Paul Skidmore have accepted invitations to attend

AOB: The Quakers will be holding a 30-minute vigil on Peace Day on the 21st September. There will also be a bring-and-share lunch and talk by Diana Francis, peace speaker. John Blanchard will be giving a talk in St Margaret's Hall on the 2nd October at 7.30pm. The title is 'Is God past his sell-by date?'

It has been reported that the chapel at the Bradford on Avon Cemetery is in a sorry state and badly in need of decoration. WWDC are to be made aware of this.

Next meeting: Provisionally set for Monday 10th November 2009.

David is very well thought of in the Group and I am sure would welcome more Holy Trinity members to join him at future meetings.

Tony Haffenden
(representing David Rawstron and
Holy Trinity Church)

The push

A man and his wife were awakened at 3 o'clock in the morning by a loud pounding on the door. The man got up and went to the door where a drunken stranger, standing in the pouring rain, asked him for a push.

"Not a chance," said the husband, "it's three o'clock in the morning!" He slammed the door and returned to bed.

"Who was that?" asked his wife. "Just some drunk asking for a push," he answered.

"Did you help him?" she asked.

"No, I did not. It's three in the morning and it's raining cats and dogs out there!"

"Well, you have a short memory," said his wife. "Can't you remember about three months ago when we broke down and those two men helped us? I think you should help him, and you should be ashamed of yourself!"

The man sighed, but did as he was told. He got dressed, and went out into the pounding rain. He called out into the dark, "Hello, are you still there?"

"Yes," came back the answer.

"Do you still need a push?" called out the husband.

"Yes, please!" came the reply from the dark.

"Where are you?" called the husband.

"Over here, on the swing."

source: Parish Pump

OUR GREMLIN

Anyone who knows us well will also know of our Gremlin. He (and for some reason I am convinced it's a he) has been with us since we got here over 38 years ago. His favourite antics usually concern water or electricity and have been known to make grown workmen tear out their hair, if not actually cry. One, I remember, who said he'd come in the late afternoon to fix something quite simple looked at me most oddly when I told him we had a Gremlin and would he mind coming early in the morning as I was positive that the job would take much longer than he had forecast. He obviously thought me quite mad but as we were paying the bill he agreed. He arrived at 8am. He finally left at 8pm and had to be called back at 9pm as our ceiling was sagging as a result of a leak. He told me that never had he come across anything like the problems he had encountered and we were welcome to our Gremlin! I had warned him!

One of the weirdest tricks played was when the door between the kitchen and the laundry room locked. Weird, because there is no lock on this door, and particularly annoying as our back door was locked and the keys to the shed (where the tools are kept) are in the laundry room. Finally a screwdriver was found and the whole handle removed. The door refused to budge. I got so mad that I actually reproved the gremlin out loud – told him he'd had his fun and that enough was enough. On my word of honour the door then opened!

You can perhaps see why I don't scoff at our 'lodger'.

A few weeks ago two of our three television sets gave up the ghost within twenty-four hours. Now we come to the point of my writing this article. We thought that, as they were both old analogue sets, we would have no chance of getting them fixed and a visit to several shops seemed to underline this. Gremlin had won – but then Brian found a Gremlin adversary. His name is Peter and we found him through the Yellow Pages. He came and took the TVs away and soothed our worries with calming words. The very next day he rang to give us an estimate and inform us as to what had been wrong with the sets – and then said – wait for it – he could bring them back that very same evening! He did. We were astonished for we were sure that we would have to wait for at least two weeks.

Parish News does not carry advertisements, but anyone who is worried about the change-over from analogue to digital, or has trouble with any type of television, can ring me and I will happily give you Peter's details. Anyone who can lessen the problems caused by our Gremlin is special indeed! I am also attaching an extract from an article that Peter has written for other local magazines. I am sure you will find it reassuring.

Our phone number is 01225 866121.

Liz Netley

DON'T PANIC!

(Extracts from Peter's article)

Concern has been expressed on how existing TVs and other equipment will be affected come the digital TV switchover. Many people are uncertain about reports in the media that (incorrectly) imply the necessity of replacing perfectly good sets.

Did you know that ANY television, old or new, can be made to work on the new digital signals? All you need to do is add a 'Freeview' box, which connects into your existing set. Incidentally, even the older TVs that have no SCART socket at the back **can still be used on digital signals**, providing you use the correct type of 'Freeview' box.

Also, should you wish (and contrary to some of the information in the press) your VCR **can** record the new digital channels, either from your new 'Freeview' box, or from a second box if you want truly independent recording and viewing.

Adding a digital receiver box is optional until the current analogue TV signals are finally switched off — in our case we believe this will be in 2010* — you don't **have** to feel rushed. Many people want a bit more time to decide, or are concerned about the costs involved, so remember that you can elect simply to carry on watching existing products as they are for at least the next year or so. At sometime between now and then you can decide whether the 'Freeview' box approach or a new 'integrated digital' product purchase best suits your needs.**

* I have heard rumours that there may not be a complete switch off of the analogue signals!

** I know that Peter feels so strongly that the older sets provide a much better picture than the new flat screens that he has a new tube ready in case the one in his existing analogue set gives out.

Liz

DEFINITIONS

MUSIC: The speech of angels.

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.



Sponsored Ride And Stride 25th Anniversary Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust

This year's Sponsored Ride and Stride, formerly known as the Great Cycle Ride, took place on Saturday 13th September.



George Hurst giving John Woods and Edward Shaw a few words of encouragement as they set off on the Ride & Stride.

Brian Wickham meets up with John Woods and Edward Shaw to complete the Holy Trinity Trio.



photos: Tony Haffenden

Autumn Song

October is a piper,
Piping down the dell –
Sad sweet songs of sunshine –
Summer's last farewell,
He pipes till grey November
Comes in the mist and rain,
And then he puts his pipe away
Till Autumn comes again.

Margaret Rose

INVEST IN YOUR LOCAL COMMUNITY BY JOINING THE CREDIT UNION

There are over 1500 members in Wiltshire and more are always welcome. The Credit Union is a community-based scheme offering savings and ethical loans.

It is a safe way to save small or large amounts as its business is closely regulated by the Financial Services Authority and it is a member of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme. All loans and investments are covered by life insurance, without an extra charge, for members up to the age of 80 years.

The total cost of a loan is the amount borrowed plus the interest charged on the loan. As the loan is repaid, the interest is charged only on the reducing amount. Money is loaned responsibly and according to the member's ability to pay it back. The interest rate is fixed so that if bank interest rates change repayments remain the same. The maximum rate of interest is 12.68%; there are no hidden charges or hidden fees payable and no penalty for paying off a loan early.

From our church family, Margaret Harkcom and Evelyn Humphrey have joined Anne Carter and me as volunteers to operate the Bradford on Avon Branch of the Credit Union. Do come to see us for a chat and a cup of coffee or tea in Church Hall on a Thursday between 10.30 and 12 noon as well as finding out more about investing in your local community. The idea is that members save together and then lend to each other.

Marlene Haffenden

St Margaret's Surgery Flu Clinic

will be held on Saturday 18th October at the surgery

Please ring for an appointment ONLY if you are in an AT RISK category.

If in doubt please check with reception

Tel: 01225 863278

This replaces the invitation service of previous years

A Pizza Hut Prayer

Whilst our American family of daughter, son-in-law and two grandchildren, Joseph, aged 8, and Beth, aged 6, were here on holiday, Tony and I spent five wonderful days at Disneyland in Paris. However, the most memorable part of this Disney holiday was the day prior to leaving St Pancras Station for Paris. We travelled to London in the morning and spent the afternoon at Covent Garden.

Our other daughter and two grandsons, Adam aged 10 and Ben aged 8, joined us at Covent Garden. After an entertaining and enjoyable afternoon watching the buskers, it was time to eat. The nearest eating-place to where we were, and the most popular, was Pizza Hut. A vast amount of food arrived at our table to the satisfaction of four excited and hungry grandchildren. Adam, who has an extraordinarily large appetite, took one



Adam, Ben Joseph and Beth.

photo Marlene Haffenden

look and said, "Do you think we ought to say grace?" He then asked us all to be quiet and put our hands together. As grandparents, we thought that one of us would have to deliver the prayer but no, Adam maintaining the initiative, began to pray; "Thank you Lord for this lovely food that we are about to eat and we pray for all those children in Africa who have no food or very little food to eat. Amen." A short discussion then followed amongst the four children as to how much

they would miss not having pizza. We adults felt pride and shame at the same time, as we had not given a thought to those who are without enough food.

That morning, Adam had been fortunate in attending a Soccer Training School with Chelsea Football Club kicking a ball around with the England players John Terry and Frank Lampard, as well as with other professional footballers. What pride we felt that he had thought of the starving children of Africa relative to the importance to his own love of playing football.

How refreshing our grandchildren can be and how grandparents can learn from them as well as their learning from us!

Marlene Haffenden

God's biggest problem with labourers in his vineyard is absenteeism. Anon

NATURE DIARY 8

More extracts from my diary:

August 2008

Friday 1st: The verges are filled with rosebay willowherb, bindweed and bramble flowers, ragwort and golden rod – lovely.

Saturday 2nd: Anxiously looking out for swifts – hate it when they go and always regret not spending longer watching them – finally spotted some at 8pm.

Sunday 3rd: The Elizabeth montana clematis has flowered again and a beautiful orange lily has flowered in the shade bed.

Have finished reading ***A History of Ornithology*** by Peter Bircham. Oh how we take things for granted! If you want to check a bird these days all you do is look up a Field Guide. I now know it wasn't till the 16th century that the first published accounts devoted specifically to British birds were listed and even in the 21st Century there are still arguments concerning identification of species.

Monday 4th: It seems there are several seasons in one day!

Still spotting swifts.

Moved an iris in the pond, looked up and saw three little frogs gazing impassively at me.

Magnolia in second bud of the year, doubt if there will be much flowering with all the rain.

Wednesday 6th: Goodbye swifts.

Cyclamen flowering under the weeping birch.

In ***Wildwood. A Journey Through Trees*** by Roger Deakin I found the following quote – “In August 1826 William Cobbett set out from Salisbury and rode up the Wylie Valley. He was shocked by the ruin and poverty he encountered everywhere due to the Acts of Enclosure. In Heytesbury he met ‘some very ragged men and boys who had come from Bradford on Avon...to gather nuts in the woods’ – they were unemployed cloth workers turned out of their factory. Cobbett saved his supper and fasted in the morning so he could ‘give these chaps a breakfast for once in their lives’”

Sunday 10th: Finally have got away to Oxford for a few days' much needed break.

Today visited The University of Oxford Botanic Gardens. It's a lovely place, with botanical and herbaceous borders, rock gardens, vegetable beds and the most wonderful glass-houses showing, for example, tropical, palm, lily and insectivorous plants – all beautiful and amazing with exquisite flowers and leaves.

Also went to the Natural History Museum. Very interesting, with a huge variety of exhibits including live colonies of beetles, cockroaches, millipedes and a bird-eating tarantula. I overheard a young lad of about five enthusiastically telling his mum how these tarantulas shed their hairs as an irritant if they are attacked – absolutely accurate – but his mother obviously didn't believe him and just said “Yes dear” in a humouring tone. Shame!

Found a lovely quote in the museum – “When the British polymath* JBS Haldane (1892-1964) was asked what could be inferred about the mind of the Creator from his study of the world of creation he replied ‘An inordinate fondness of beetles’”!

* I wasn't quite sure of the meaning of 'polymath', so I checked it – it is someone who is an expert in many things.

Tuesday 12th: On the way home saw lots of the lovely, striking, blue flower, chicory.

Crossing from Marlborough to Devizes the sky was a dark, Welsh-slate grey, contrasting with the eye-hurtingly bright green of the grass. If I painted this nobody would believe the colours.

Tuesday 19th: Went to Lockeridge *via* Alton Barnes. Swallows were forming musical notes on the wires, buzzards were floating in huge, cloudy skies and flocks of two to three hundred herring gulls were pebble dashing the newly ploughed fields.

Friday 22nd: Chris treated us to a day out at The Hawk Conservancy Trust, Weyhill, near Andover. Fantastic! We watched white-backed, white-headed, and griffon vultures being fed. Saw a lanner falcon, barn owls, five black vultures and a single griffon vulture flying. Watched a striated caracara and a secretary bird displaying their skills – and then, best of all – saw the 'Valley of the Eagles Flying Display'. Watched an African fish eagle plucking food, at high speed, from a raised water platform; a peregrine stooping for a lure; hooded vultures low flying over our heads, a bateleur (African eagle) and black kites flying to music as did two bald eagles which flew in from two miles away over the valley. Wonderful! There was so much to see and so much to do and we did but a quarter of it. A fabulous day.

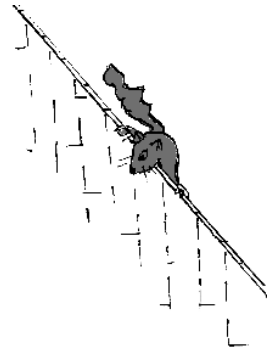
Saturday 23rd: A heron landed on next door's pergola. Watch out goldfish!

Monday 25th: One of the oddest things about a squirrel is that the noises it makes don't at all sound like the noises you expect it to make! At full throttle squirrels scream at the world like strangulated herring gulls – when chuntering they sound like a hybrid between a magpie and a crow! Anytime you hear a call and think 'I can't identify that bird' chances are that it's a squirrel! Our demented squirrel is back. Yesterday it took a flying leap from the wall to the feeder – and failed. Today I'm lying in bed and hear the strangest padding of feet and weird mutterings – so look out the bedroom window, then look up and see the squirrel looking down at me from our steeply pitched roof. It was obviously trying to work out if it could descend from there to the feeder. It failed – again!



Thursday 28th: The horse chestnut trees in The Hall's grounds look as if they have the disease we saw last year at Barrington Hall. The leaves curl and look Autumnal. So sad. Nice to have bullfinches and a nuthatch joining in with the greenfinches and tits on the feeder. A joy to watch.

Liz Netley



Book Review God: The Short Version

Peter Lundstrom, Lion Publishing plc , £4.99

People have really interesting questions about God. Too bad they usually get such dull answers! What's needed is a lively conversation on the subject. You'll find just that in *God: The Short Version*. Here in seven brief chapters you'll quickly tour the issues that interest and enlighten you most, including: How even to think about One beyond human thought; God in major world religions; God as pictured in the Hebrew Bible, the Christian Bible and the Qu'ran; The difference between God and religion. In short, *God: The Short Version* may be the introduction to God you've been hoping for: engaging, informative, stimulating and thought-provoking. Minus the dull parts you've always skipped anyway.

Church welcomes tenth annual increase in GCSE Religious Education entrants

Religious Education has grown in popularity among GCSE students again this year. Among subjects with more than 100,000 entrants, RE has remained at the top of the charts for increasing entrants (when changes to the science curriculum are taken into account), with a 4.7% increase since last year, following a 7.2% increase between 2006 and 2007. The number of entrants for the GCSE RE full course has now risen each year for the past decade.

Moses revisited

Nine year old Joseph was asked by his mother what he had learned in Sunday School.

"Well, Mum, our teacher told us how God sent Moses behind enemy lines on a rescue mission to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. When he got to the Red Sea, he had his engineers build a pontoon bridge and all the people walked across safely. Then he radioed headquarters for reinforcements. They sent bombers to blow up the bridge and all the Israelites were saved."

"Now, Joseph, is that really what your teacher taught you?" his mother asked, somewhat alarmed.

"Well, no, Mum. But if I told it the way the teacher did, you'd never believe it!"

FOR PRAYER IN OCTOBER

We pray:

- for our church on our Dedication Festival
- for our Licensed Lay Ministers (celebrating their annual service in Salisbury Cathedral)
- for the future pattern of local government in our area
- for local initiatives on climate change
- for our local schools and colleges

West Wiltshire Interfaith Group Meeting

One World Week

Let's come together to celebrate diversity
and learn & discuss modern-day issues.

Sunday 26th October 2008

The Civic Hall, St Stephen's Place, Trowbridge, BA14 8AH
from 3pm to 7pm

Further details to be announced.

Saxon Club Programme October 2008

*We meet in the Church Hall at 2 pm on Tuesdays.
You are very welcome to join us.*

October 7 th	Ven. Ian Stanes
October 14 th	Bingo
October 21 st	Chris Hodge
October 28 th	Favourite things and places

Titles to be announced later

Quick Crossword

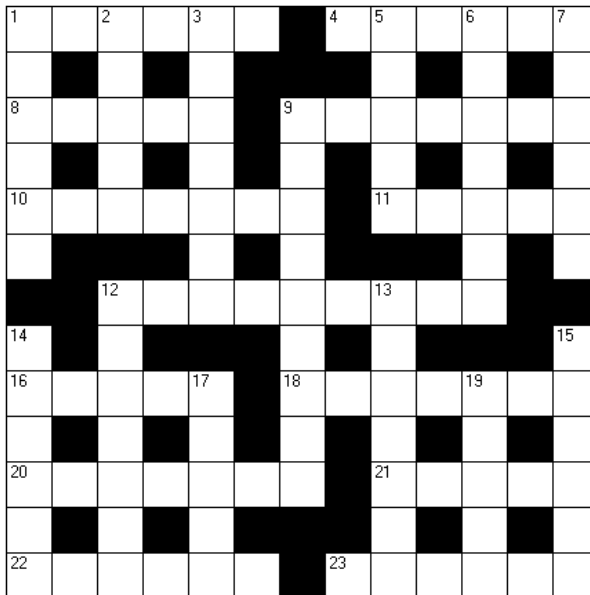
The Bible version used is the NIV

Clues across

- 1 Unexpectedly sudden (6)
- 4 Location of St Basil's 12 across (6)
- 8 ..which _____ throughout the earth (Zech 4.10)
- 9 Grazing described by Psalm 37 as safe (7)
- 10 Sea to which the land of Judah stretched in Deuteronomy ch. 34 (7)
- 11 Japanese rice dish (5)
- 12 Church containing the bishop's throne (9)
- 16 Body part preserved as worthy of veneration (5)
- 18 OT book and prophet (7)
- 20 Most like those who will inherit the earth, according to the sermon on the mount (7)
- 21 His servants discovered a well of fresh water in Genesis ch. 26 (5)
- 22 I will _____ them in their homes (Hos 11.11) (6)
- 23 Way out (6)

Clues down

- 1 Flaming missiles in Psalm 7 (6)
- 2 Sounds the church bells (5)
- 3 I will _____ pests from devouring your crops (Mal 3.11) (7)
- 5 Fertile spot in a desert (5)
- 6 Plans fail for lack of it, says Proverbs ch. 15 (7)
- 7 Type of beetle (6)
- 9 Whitsun (9)
- 12 Brief formal prayer that varies with the day (7)
- 13 Delivering a lesson at a service (7)
- 14 Food fragments eaten by dogs in Mark ch. 7 (6)
- 15 Gathered under the hen's wings in Luke ch. 13 (6)
- 17 Angler's basket (5)
- 19 ..or an _____ that teaches lies (Hab 2.18) (5)



Solutions on page 7.

Source: Parish Pump

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - OFFICERS

Canon Bill Matthews (Chairman)	Tony Haffenden (Churchwarden)
Joan Finch (Churchwarden & VC)	Graham Dove (Hon. Secretary)
Jeremy Lavis (Hon. Treasurer)	Rev Angela Onions (ex officio)

Pat Astill	Peggy Leach
Janet Brown	Dr Nick Nutt
Mary Burge	David Rawstron
Anne Carter	Edward Shaw
Bryan Harris	Malcolm Walsh
June Harrison	Anne Willis
Cecilia Hynes-Higman	John Woods
One Deanery Synod vacancy	

STANDING/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Vicar; Churchwardens; Secretary; Treasurer, Bryan Harris

CHURCHWARDENS EMERITI

Norman Hanney, Jeremy Lavis, Mike Fuller, Anne Carter

FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Patron: Dr Alex Moulton	Chairman: Bob Cherry
Secretary: <i>vacancy</i>	Treasurer: John Woods
Committee:	Anne Carter; Bryan Harris; Jeremy Lavis; Rev 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 churchwardens, with Readers. The Group was established in 1975.

OTHER OFFICERS & ORGANISERS

PCC Secretary	Graham Dove	868654
PCC Treasurer	Jeremy Lavis	863600
Bellringers	Phil Gaisford	863538
Bookstall	Rev 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	Rev Angela Onions	309001
Electoral Roll Officer	Pat Irving	862903
Flowers	Jonquil Burgess	868905
Guides	Judith Holland	866215
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	Graham Dove	868654
Junior Church	Alison Cook	864116
	June Harrison	863745
Verger	Peter Wills	867593
Midsummer Market	John Cox (Community Stalls)	864270
	Colin Johnston (Church Stalls)	868132
	Stephanie Moorfoot (Communications)	863366

Parish Representatives on other organisations:

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

*The cover picture is from a drawing by Frances Taylor.
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