

# HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Bradford on Avon



## PARISH NEWS

### FEBRUARY 2009

web edition

# DIRECTORY

## Vicar

Canon Bill Matthews

The Vicarage, 18A Woolley Street  
864444  
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## Retired Clergy

Ven John Burgess, Rev Alun Glyn-Jones,  
Canon Peter Hardman, Rev Angela Onions,  
Ven Ian Stanes,

## Licensed Lay Ministers

Graham Dove

Dr Malcolm Walsh (retired)

## Churchwardens

Joan Finch 40 Palairet Close 863878

Tony Haffenden 6 Folly Field 864412

## Parish Administrator

Graham Dove [secretary@brad-avon-ht.org](mailto:secretary@brad-avon-ht.org) 868654

## Director of Music

Gareth Bennett 01380 728772

## 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, Compline etc

### Holy Communion (weekdays)

10 am	Wednesdays
8 am	Fridays

### Times of Meetings

Choir Practice	6.30 pm	Church, Tuesdays
Junior Church	9.30 am	Church Hall (1st Sunday of the month)
Mothers' Union	7.30 pm	Church Hall, (usually) 3 <sup>rd</sup> Thursday
Bell Practice	7.30–9 pm	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Mondays

Holy Trinity Web-site  
Diocese Web-site

[www.brad-avon-ht.org.uk](http://www.brad-avon-ht.org.uk)  
[www.salisbury.anglican.org](http://www.salisbury.anglican.org)

### Weekly Bulletin

Notices to the Parish Administrator not later than  
Sunday for the following Sunday.

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

# FROM THE VICAR

Though I'm a complete landlubber, I've always been fascinated by ships and the Navy, and my pre-birthday treat earlier in January was an overnight stay in Portsmouth and the chance to do a thorough visit of the tourist attractions of the dockyard.

It was particularly interesting to be able to see the remains of the 16th century Mary Rose (and many of the artefacts taken from her), the 18th century Victory and the 19th century Warrior, all within the space of twenty-four hours.

The whole experience gave a strong impression of successive generations within the same service, using some of the same tools and some very different ones, in different social environments and political situations, but with the same ultimate purpose. It also gave a clear indication of the vastly increased pace of change over the century and a half since the Warrior was built, both socially, politically and technologically.

The same, of course, is true of the church. The process by which this monthly magazine is produced is one illustration of it, with many of the contributions submitted by e-mail, the whole thing 'type-set' by computer, with digital photographs, printed on a digital printer, with an edition posted on our church website. It's a far cry from the old days of running things off on the parish duplicator, and the 'old days' aren't all that long ago!

These days, we use a whole range of new tools to communicate our message. And that is a key part of our ultimate purpose, of furthering the Kingdom of God within our community. But another way in which we are called to serve that purpose is the very traditional one of looking to our own lives, and our growth in faith, discipleship and commitment.

As another Lent approaches, we are given one of the ancient 'tools' to serve that aim. Our modern age is chary of laying too much emphasis on giving things up, and on any appearance of self-mortification. But Lent is an ideal opportunity to learn to pray and worship with greater discipline and to learn more about what our faith should mean to us. Let's make a pre-Lent resolution, to use that opportunity to the full.

*Bill Matthews*

# DIARY FOR FEBRUARY



## **1 SUNDAY**

9.30 am  
6 pm

### **CANDLEMAS**

Solemn Eucharist  
Compline

2 Monday

7.30 pm

Bradford Group Council

*Lambert  
Centre*

4 Wednesday

7.30 pm

Bradford Deanery Synod

*Holy Trinity,  
Trowbridge*

## **8 SUNDAY**

9.30 am  
6 pm

### **THIRD SUNDAY BEFORE LENT/ EDUCATION SUNDAY**

Sung Eucharist  
Homelessness Service

## **15 SUNDAY**

9.30 am  
6 pm

### **SECOND SUNDAY BEFORE LENT**

Family Communion  
Taizé Service with Prayer for Hope &  
Health

19 Thursday

7.30 pm

Mothers' Union  
Dave Lewis—Salisbury/Sudan Link

*Church Hall*

## **22 SUNDAY**

9.30 am  
11.15 am  
6 pm

### **SUNDAY NEXT BEFORE LENT**

Sung Eucharist  
Holy Baptism  
Evensong

## **25 WEDNESDAY**

10 am  
7.30 pm

### **ASH WEDNESDAY**

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

27 Friday

8 am

George Herbert, Priest & Poet

*Holy Communion is usually at 8 am each Sunday*

*Copy Date for March is 15th February*

## HOLY TRINITY MOTHERS' UNION

Instead of having a party this year, it was decided that we would go out for a meal. No problem as to where, as we always get such a great meal and such good service at a great price at the Cliffe in Limpley Stoke. Where else would you get a 3-course evening meal with coffee for £15? I wasn't surprised when nearly every member signed up for it and, together with husbands and one friend, we had a party of 32. Fortunately, the cold weather had gone for a while, so we had no difficulty getting up the hill. The meals were thoroughly enjoyed, the raffle tickets drawn, and the entertainment began.

Cinderella was performed in 5 minutes, with Alice playing Cinders, who said "All Right" to everything, Beryl playing Prince Charming, completely deadpan, Ian and John playing the Ugly Sisters, with appropriate hats, and Mary Dawson playing the Fairy Godmother. I was the Narrator, and we all had to get up from our chairs every time we spoke, and then sit down again afterwards. It was killing! However, the audience enjoyed it tremendously. This was followed by Ian and Sylvia singing "My Favourite Things" based on the words used by Julie Andrews for her 70<sup>th</sup> birthday. I finished off with a couple of humorous readings. This was followed by our coffee and tea, which ended our evening, very much enjoyed by everyone. We said a big thank you to Martin & Sheena Seccombe, the owners of the Cliffe, for giving us such a good time, promising to recommend people to go there.

At the time of writing, we still have our AGM at the end of the month, when Mary Ford finishes her 6-year stint on the committee. We thank her for all she's done, and hope she'll continue to do some of it! Sylvia Stanes is joining the committee; I'm sure she'll have a lot to contribute.

At the 9.30am service on the 15<sup>th</sup> February we welcome Pam Edwards into our branch from Bath and Wells, and hope that we shall be enrolling two gentlemen as well. They are still thinking about it!

Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, is the Women's World Day of Prayer, prepared this year by the women of Papua New Guinea. The service is at 2pm at the United Church, where the speaker will be the Rev Gwyneth Owen.

Everyone is very welcome, you don't have to be a member of the Mothers' Union!

Chris Hodge

## • FROM THE REGISTERS

### Marriage

25.6 Gary Bennie Pollock  
& Caroline Anne Attwood

### Funerals

12.12 Isabelle Julia Carter  
Susan Isabelle Carter  
20.12 Hugh Allen Roland-Price  
23.12 Winifred Rose Timbrell

# Junior Church News

It was already the end of November and we had only two or three children for the 'Tableau'. So we couldn't believe our eyes when on 5<sup>th</sup> December, nine children appeared at Junior Church ready to start rehearsals. Three other children subsequently joined us, and after one more rehearsal our juniors did us proud and produced a very enjoyable 'Tableau'. Our special thanks go to Muriel for playing the piano, Rebecca who acted as the narrator, and the following children for taking part:

Hugh, Lucy, Esme, Trystn, Elin, Rebecca, Frances, Alice, Hayden, Elena and especially Luke who has only just joined us and made a lovely shepherd. Some of the children joined us again at the Christingle service, handing out the oranges, reading the lessons and lighting the candles. It really is a very special time of the year, not just for the children but for all the adults.

**GROWING**



**LEARNING**

Junior Church started again on 4<sup>th</sup> January, but unfortunately only one member made it. However, we did have some fun, singing carols and drawing a picture of the Wise Men. Perhaps all the others were getting themselves sorted out for school the next day!

On January 10<sup>th</sup>, we shall be attending the Trowbridge Pantomime,



*The Christmas tableau.*

*photo David Milne*

'Dick Whittington'. I am sure this will prove to be a fun afternoon.

February 1<sup>st</sup> will be our next Junior Church and we look forward to seeing as many children as possible.

June, Alison, Sue & Muriel



## What are people like in your street?

A family was having to move house because of the husband's job. They'd been living in London and were moving into our area. After much searching, they found just the right house for them. On their visit to make final arrangements, they asked the estate agent who was selling the house what people were like around here. Since they'd never lived in these parts before, they wanted to know what to expect.

The estate agent paused, and then asked: "What are people like where you live now?" They answered: "They're awful; no one seems to want to help anyone else, no one will stop for a chat. You can't rely on people, they're rotten neighbours. We'll be glad to leave."

The estate agent said: "Sadly, they're exactly like that here, too." And when the new family moved in, sure enough, they found that it was true. No one helped them, everyone kept themselves to themselves, and there was no community spirit. They were as lonely as they'd been in London.

By chance, another family also had to move house from London to the same road up here only a few weeks later. After much searching, they found just the right house for them. On their last visit to make final arrangements, they too asked the estate agent who was selling the house what people were like around here, since they'd never lived in these parts before.

The estate agent paused and asked: "What are people like where you live now?" The family answered: "They're wonderful; we'll be so sorry to leave our neighbours. Everyone looks out for one another, you can always rely on people to help when needed. There is a real community spirit."

The estate agent said: "Well in that case I've got good news for you. The people around here are exactly like that, too." And when the second family moved into the same road as the first family, they found that it was true. The neighbours were lovely, people were welcoming and kind and reliable. The new family were so happy to have moved there.

Jesus said: "As you judge others, so you will yourselves be judged and whatever measure you deal out to others will be dealt to you."

So – what are people like in your neighbourhood?

Source: Parish Pump

### Crossword solutions

**Across**  
1, Accept. 4, Adorns. 8, Curse. 9, Learned. 10, Off beam.  
11, Nobel. 12, Livestock. 17, Avail. 19, Ancient. 21, Steward. 22,  
Abide. 23, Reaper. 24, Height.  
**Down**  
1, Anchor. 2, Careful. 3, Piece. 5, Drawn to. 6, R and B. 7,  
Saddle. 9, Lampstand. 13, Village. 14, Keeping. 15, Caesar. 16,  
Street. 18, Arena. 20, Cease.

# A CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM

*2009 marks the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations' International Year of the Child.*

**Ishmael & Isaac:** The story of these two half-brothers is found very early in the Bible, in Genesis 17 and 21. Abraham was their father but while Isaac was the child of Sarah, Abraham's wife, Ishmael was the son of Sarah's maid, Hagar.

God had promised Abraham and Sarah that they would have children but after many years they were still childless. Sarah then suggested that Abraham should have children by her maid Hagar, but as soon as Hagar was pregnant, the trouble started. Sarah was jealous of Hagar and forced Abraham to send her away. God protected Hagar and told her to return to Abraham's house. There her son Ishmael was born and God promised that he would be the progenitor of a great nation (17:20).

Some years later Abraham had a son by Sarah, Isaac, and the tensions in Abraham's home became unbearable. Ishmael mocked Isaac, and Sarah again demanded that Hagar and her son should be sent away. God provided for Hagar and Ishmael in the wilderness and renewed his promise that Ishmael would be the father of a mighty nation.

Ishmael and Isaac were to have significant destinies. Ishmael became the father of the Arab nations while Isaac became the father of the nation of Israel. Down the long centuries, and at the present time, the conflict between Jews and Arabs is a constant reminder of how it all began. Abraham and Sarah failed to wait for God's promise to be realised and so Hagar and Ishmael enter the story. The two half-brothers grew up in a home full of tension, bitterness and hatred — and, sadly, the legacy continues to this day.

Dr Herbert McGonigle,  
Nazarene Theological College,  
Didsbury, Manchester.

## He Prayeth Well

He prayeth well, who loveth well  
Both man and bird and beast,  
He prayeth best, who loveth best  
All things both great and small;  
For the dear God who loveth us,  
He made and loveth all.

*Samuel Taylor Coleridge*

## Bradford Area Churches Together



The meeting held in the Quaker Meeting Room on January 12<sup>th</sup>. 2009 was attended by 13 people. There were four apologies.

The next BACT activity will be the **Service for Christian Unity to be held on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> January at St. Nicholas's Church, Winsley, at 6.30pm.**

The status of Holt URC was raised. It was confirmed they were members but that there was a need for them to have a proper representative on BACT.

The advertisement for Christmas Service times for all Bradford churches in the Wiltshire Times cost £136.

A communication had been received from Wiltshire Churches Together (WCT). There had been a gathering at Dauntsey's School at which the new Unitary Authority presented future plans. Subscriptions to the WCT are now due (£160). This cost was queried and the question of what we get for our subscription was raised. It was agreed that someone from WCT should be invited to explain. It was also agreed to request a copy of WCT's annual accounts.

**Financial Report:** It was necessary to pay Lent Group costs of £250 in advance. It was hoped to recoup the Pentecostal Weekend costs of £115. Some form of collection is needed. BACT must concentrate on the event and worry about the costs later. Total forthcoming expenditure was £625, and there was £640 in the bank. It was agreed to ask for £60 from each member church, and hope to get £50 from the cash-strapped ones.

Judith Hammond made her report. She had had an email from Gaza explaining the dreadful situation there. Hamas rockets were an act of desperation because of the stranglehold on the territory. All were encouraged by her presentation:

**Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme: Palestine & Israel: Witnessing Reality: Stories from Israel-Palestine** on Friday, February 27<sup>th</sup>. There will be a collection at the end for donations to work in Gaza. People are needed to help with this. St. Margaret's Hall was booked from 19.00 and the presentation would start at 19.30. Judith would talk for half an hour and then welcome questions. Ambrose Stickney would chair the meeting. Three dignitaries had so far accepted the invitation to be present, and the Secretary will contact local radio to inform of this forthcoming event.

**Pentecost 2009:** Member churches were asked if they had responded to the Pentecost proposals and appointed a representative to plan. It was expected there would be two meetings for this. It was emphasized that there was a need to get into an energetic mode if the event was to be a success.

**West Wilts Show:** There was a plea that instead of any church putting on its own display we should all co-operate with a BACT display on one stand. Having representation at the show was time consuming, taking up three days. Martin Skinner has talked about linking up with Trowbridge Churches Together (TCT). We need to show what we do. Offers for material are requested.

**Ecumenical Objectives** Ambrose Stickney spoke of the necessity of doing more together and to be seen to be doing more together. One member reported that in Bath there was a course of 10 talks on different aspects of Christianity in preparation for a variety of street initiatives. The presenters could possibly do this in Bradford. It was agreed that we would ask them to give a talk at the next BACT meeting. We were also reminded that all were invited to the ecumenical prayer group on Monday evenings held by Bearfield.

There was a discussion on contact with the Zion Baptist Church and the Christian Fellowship. Could they become Associate members or how do we link up with them?

**Lent Groups** This would be the York Course: **These three Faith, Hope & Love**. Six groups had been arranged so far. The course was to run in the weeks Monday 2<sup>nd</sup>. March to Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>. April. **Returns are needed by 8<sup>th</sup> February. Volunteers for leading a course still wanted, and another venue is also required.** Any questions to Frances Hopwood, 0125-869047.

**Rome & Assisi visit:** This would be based on a 7-day excursion from Heathrow to Rome – Assisi – Rome. This was not a pilgrimage but a mixture of Christian worship and sightseeing, with opportunity to meet and talk to people: ecumenical, modest accommodation, cost £700 pp. The organizers were hoping for a party of about 20.

**News from Churches** Bearfield: Richard Docherty is a trainee pastor. They were planning an expansion and redevelopment. To help raise funds their next event would be a Chapel Walk and Singing Workshop 14.00-17.00 on Saturday 31<sup>st</sup>. January, finishing with tea and cake at Bearfield church and sing in the Saxon church and St Mary Tory: those interested should send details and fee (£10) to Sue Glanville.

**Debt Advice Service:** This was moving forward. A grant had been obtained from BOA Town Council and the official opening planned. Faithworks national leader had been invited. The United Church is offering facilities. Sessions would be on Tuesdays, 18.00 to 21.30pm and Wednesdays, 9.30 to 13.00pm. There would a Drop-in facility and an appointment system.

**Homelessness Sunday:** A service is being held in Holy Trinity at 6.00pm on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> February. Contact Ambrose Stickney if any help required.

**Next Meeting.** Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup>. 19.30, at the Friends Meeting House.

Malcolm Walsh

*Notice given out before a service:*

The vicar will be away on holiday until the 27th.

Local clergy will be celebrating on the Sundays he's away.

## JUDITH HAMMOND IN PALESTINE

Many of us know Judith Hammond by sight, if not by name, as she cycles round the town from her home in Middle Rank, fitting more into 24 hours than most people half her age do in week. She sits with the Bradford on Avon Quakers.

She recently returned home after three months working as a volunteer with the Ecumenical Accompaniment Programme. This was set up in 2003 by the World Council of Churches in response to a request from churches in Jerusalem for a monitoring service on the West Bank, and it is the Quakers who run the programme in the UK and Ireland.

Four ecumenical accompaniers are regularly placed, after stringent selection and training, for three months in six locations in the West Bank — Hebron, Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Yanoun (near Nablus), Jayyous and Tulkarem, both in the North West. Judith was sent to Tulkarem. There she shared a flat with a Swede and two Germans. Their rôle was to stand in solidarity with the Palestinians. This included monitoring check-points, helping with the olive harvest, listening to their stories, supporting them in non-violent protests against the occupation and, finally, to advocate for them by using the media, sending reports and giving at least ten talks about their experiences once back home.

If you would like to hear more about Judith's experiences as an ecumenical accompanier in Palestine, come to St Margaret's Hall on 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Bradford on Avon Churches Together who are organizing the evening say that we should come early as there is likely to be a large audience.

Judith is also speaking on 'Living under occupation' to the West Wilts Interfaith Group on February 17<sup>th</sup> : details are given in the Interfaith Group notice on page 23.

Margaret Harris

### **BACT Meeting:**

Hear Judith Hammond's experiences as an  
ecumenical accompanier in Palestine,  
St Margaret's Hall, 27<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm.

#### ***Old chestnut from Radio 2:***

"Despite all the rain that's been falling, the water  
is still only half way up the ducks!"

## **Sam'di Gras, A Carnival of Fair Trade**

**Devizes Town Hall  
on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February  
10.00am – 3.30pm. All welcome**



How much do you know about Fair Trade? You are invited to visit Devizes Town Hall to find out more.

Wiltshire Churches Together, Devizes Town Council, and The Devizes Fair Trade Group have come together to organise a day of feasting and fun to promote Devizes Fair Trade fortnight (Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February to Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> March) and to celebrate the commitment to Fair Trade by Wiltshire Towns and Churches. On Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2009 from 10.00am to 3.30pm catch something of the taste and flavour of Fair Trade and ethically produced food and drink in a Carnival, New Orleans style, atmosphere. This is a great way both to have a good time and to help the Fair Trade cause and hopefully brighten the end of a Wiltshire Winter

Further details from Danela Adams at the Ramsbury Office on 01380

### **LIVELY INTERFAITH MEETING**

Members of the West Wiltshire Interfaith Group gathered on Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> January at the Bridge House, Trowbridge, to listen to and discuss with Dr Andrew Murrison, MP, our patron, and other speakers, matters of dialogue with all faith groups. Dr Murrison gave a balanced talk, mainly focused on the dreadful situation in Gaza.

His theme was that war never solves problems and the answer seems to be to identify people from both factions who are willing to entertain dialogue. He referred briefly to Northern Ireland which was a good example of this argument. There followed a lively discussion, one person expressing disappointment that more local matters on interaction were not more fully discussed.

Farzana Saker, the organizer brought the meeting to an end by expressing her pleasure that there was such a good attendance. A generous buffet provided by members and friends was enjoyed by all.

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A vigil for Gaza, organised by Judith Hammond, who has just returned from Palestine, took place in Westbury Gardens on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> January for one hour. Despite the cold weather there was a good turnout, including members of churches in Bradford.

Ann Holland

## A VOYAGE TO THE FAR EAST - 2

Soon after we sailed, we went into some very choppy weather. Stugerons called for! After taking one, I'm usually OK, and I don't like the sleepiness if I take more. A lecture that morning on the ports of call only told me what I'd read in the excursion handout. I wanted to see all of it, but not at the prices Costa was charging for their excursions. As we've done before on cruises with Jill & Glyn, we decided to take taxis whenever we could. The next shock was the price of drinks, well over the top, and it wouldn't have been so bad if there'd been any alcohol in them. I think they just passed the bottle over the top! We did find they did a book of 20 coupons for soft drinks for 40 euros, so Glyn and I bought one of them. Even the soft drinks were at least 3 euros each. However, there were several quizzes a day, and as usual, we took part in them, not with any great success as there was one couple who I'd say were in a pub quiz team and knew everything! We had a lifeboat drill that afternoon, only 18 hours after sailing, and with the weather we'd been having, we could have needed the lifeboats earlier! Very lax, I'm afraid.

On Tuesday morning, we docked in Manila, with a welcome band and dancers to greet us. We used the

shuttle bus to get into town and there found an obliging taxi driver to take us on the route we'd chosen. Starting at the walled city of Intramuros, Fort Santiago was the HQ of the military – Spanish, American, and later the Japanese until 1945. As Dody, the taxi driver, told us, it was the “concentration camp” of the Spanish, who were the first invaders. From there to the church of San Augustin, built from 1587-1607. It is the oldest surviving church in the Philippines and the only building left intact when Intra was reduced to rubble in 1945. It was chosen as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in 1993. There was a museum as well as a church, which had been decked for a wedding at the weekend, and the aisle was lined with white net looped up to the pews, and banks of white lilies along the whole length of it. I don't know how people got in the pews: from the sides, I suppose. From there to the Cathedral

for a quick glimpse, as Mass was just about to start – in English! Asked why it was in English, Dody couldn't tell us, it just is! English is compulsory in schools, together with Spanish. The city centre was all of concrete, and not very nice, but there was a marvellous new

shopping mall of which Dody was very proud. We didn't want to stop! By this time, Manila was a complete traffic jam. Local transport is either by “Jeepney” ( elongated jeeps,



*A jeepney in Manila*

*photo Chris Hodge*

virtually), or train. There were people living on the pavements, some even cooking on small fires. Dody said they come in from the country, can't get work, and end up like that. It certainly didn't look a very affluent place. The money we paid for the taxi went to a transport manager, and then to a boss. We made sure Dody had a bit extra: he'd been great.

There was an excellent juggler in the show that night, the first time Gerald and I had stayed for it, as we're not keen on the 'singing' and dancing nights.

Another day at sea, culminating in the Captain's Cocktail party — plenty of free

drinks, but not a lot of nibbles, followed by a really super Gala dinner, with a choice of 7 courses. We all chose fillet steak, and it was beautiful. The special mousse dessert was paraded round the dining room by the waiters, great fun! Our next port was Kota Kinabalu, Borneo, where we found a delightful taxi driver called Alex. He showed us all the new public buildings, which were impressive, before taking us to a Water Village — dwellings built on stilts over a lot of water. This one was a show-place, with a cabin laid out for entertaining visitors. Then on to the real thing, where we had to walk on board walkways past houses with chickens and geese milling around, and all the rubbish thrown over the sides by the look of it. Some of the planks in the walkways were rotten, and you needed to watch where you were going. I looked up once, looked down again, to find a gaping hole in front of me, and

nearly ended in the drink! I was more careful after that, and relieved to find Gerald had stayed on terra firma, discretion being the better part of valour!

Back into Sabah (the old name for Kota Kinabalu), where Alex insisted we visit a Filipino market. But all the stalls had the same items for sale, none of which we wanted anyway.

More quizzes that afternoon, leading up to a prize-giving, where we were astonished to find we'd come 2<sup>nd</sup> and had a small Costa shoulder bag and a mouse mat for our efforts.

The port next day was in Brunei, and we bussed into

Bandar Seri Begawan. As all the excursions were going to a water village we passed and stayed in the centre, looking round the outside of a beautiful mosque, which evidently "arouses the wonder of even Middle Eastern visitors". We were not allowed in, which was disappointing, as we've been allowed to visit mosques in Turkey and Morocco. We went instead to the new shopping centre, where we were amazed at the money changer, who was quite amenable to changing a few \$US at a time. We didn't want lots of local money left, but did make a few purchases, some lovely peach-skin material being one. I bought enough for a long-sleeved blouse for £9; the pattern, when I came home, cost me £10.50!!

Chris Hodge



*Kota Kinabalu market*

*photo Chris Hodge*

# NATURE DIARY 12

A last extract\* from my diary:

## December 2008

**Monday 1<sup>st</sup>:** Brian saw redwings and several mistle thrushes at Kingsdown golf course this morning.

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup>:** Tremendous cloud formations this morning, moving at tremendous speed. The birds were being thrown across the sky; the jackdaws especially seem to be enjoying themselves – I wonder if the experience is a bit like humans surfing!

Having been to Holt Post Office, saw on one of the outer walls of a garden nearby the most beautiful harebell. They usually only flower from July to September, but there it was — a reminder of warmer days.

**Friday 5<sup>th</sup>:** My friend Christine's garden has cowslips in flower!

**Saturday 6<sup>th</sup>:** On his early morning walk Brian saw an owl and then a heron – apparently fishing in the dark.

Despite the frosts there is much still in flower in the garden; mahonia, lobelia, roses and abutilon – lovely!

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup>:** The trees are so beautiful, Now, with the leaves gone you can really see the structures. The horse chestnut trees at Holt are fantastic, and dogwoods, though hardly trees, are now seen clearly in fantastic colours – striking lime/yellow green and mahogany red. Suddenly, too, the shapes of the evergreens can be appreciated without the competition from the glory of deciduous trees in summer and winter. There is the most splendid pine opposite the Medical Centre on the Bradford Road, just as you drive into Trowbridge. I haven't really noticed it before and even now I'm not certain what species it is other than it's a pine, but it's wonderful.

**Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup>:** Went to Bath. The plane trees in The Circus are majestic.

Saw several kestrels, all perched, on the way in and much more unusual, a cormorant flew over the car on the way back

**Monday 15<sup>th</sup>:** The rain from elsewhere is causing flooding here, that can be seen especially as you drive into Bath.

The trees are magical in their nakedness, especially the oaks. Somehow, this year, I'm noticing this more than ever.

Huge flocks of jackdaws are flying over at 7.45am and returning, spilling through the sky, at 4.15pm. I hear them and check my watch and they are bang on time. How do they know when to gather so they can fly to their roost in safety?

Saw a short-eared owl this afternoon.

**Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup>:** There are primroses, roses and abutilon in flower in the garden and snowdrops are beginning to shoot.

**Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup>:** Cowslips are out in our garden, as well as little white alpine flowers.

As I was decorating our weeping birch for Christmas, a buzzard circled low several times over the garden – as if supervising my handiwork.

I estimated that there are up to 1000 jackdaws that fly over morning and evening – a great spectacle.

**Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup>:** Finished reading “Eric Ravilious: Memoir of an Artist” by Helen Binyon – a lovely book. There is a telling quote from Edward Bawden, (another artist) who wrote to Eric from Africa during the war: “There is an awful lot of sand...rain is frequent...a bad combination is rain, icy wind and a sandstorm. By comparison a certain part of Essex is a landscape painter’s paradise... My aide de camp, Mohammed Ahmed, would see little except for a blur of green. We know what to look for – a rabbit flick, the scurry of a stoat, primroses in ditches, or dog roses in hedgerows are caught by the corner of an eye”

**Saturday 27<sup>th</sup>:** On the way to Whitehall Garden Centre, just after the Lacock turn off, three herons took off one after the other from our left and flew low and slow-flapping over the road. They really are fabulous birds – especially that they can fly at all!

On the way home astonished to see, outside the ‘Fat Fowl’ a tree (a species of cherry), in fragile pink blossom!

Found out something amazing today. Apparently quails lay eggs with such individual marking that each egg can be traced to a particular bird! I find that astonishing.

Have also read that a few swallows have not migrated. A warm roost is key to their survival. Last year a solitary swallow over-wintered successfully on Cornwall’s Roseland Peninsula. A few chiffchaffs and blackcaps are also wintering here. These are European birds coming west to Britain. British bred birds head south.

**Sunday 28<sup>th</sup>:** Drove out to Hungerford. The sky was the clearest, brightest blue, the whole countryside gloriously beautiful. A day really to count blessings

**Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup>:** How very cold and dark it is today; icy fog pierces the bones. I long for the spring when Brian and I can don our ‘Oddie jackets’ and go exploring and bird watching warmly. Our jackets we’ve named after Bill Oddie as they are similar to the kind he wears – green with lots of pockets. When we modelled them to show a friend she said “Oh look! The Oddie Couple”!

Liz Netley



\* Liz has said that this is to be the last of the regular extracts from her diary. However, she has said that she will write occasional Nature Notes instead, and we look forward to publishing these from time to time.

Editors

## WILTSHIRE BUTTERFLIES – FEBRUARY 2009

No butterfly sightings reported since a **Brimstone** in a garden at Alderbury, near Salisbury on 20<sup>th</sup> November. This is not surprising considering the generally cold and overcast weather we have been experiencing. It seems almost unbelievable, now, that this time last year 17 **Red Admirals** had been reported during January 2008.

The hibernating species normally begin to emerge in mid-March but if we get some warm, sunny days in February, a few venture out earlier and one or two of the **Brimstone**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Peacock** and **Comma** are usually reported. Earliest dates in 2008 were: Brimstone 8<sup>th</sup> Jan and 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, Small Tortoiseshell 6<sup>th</sup> Feb, Peacock 28<sup>th</sup> Jan & 8<sup>th</sup> Feb, and Comma 8<sup>th</sup> Feb. Any sightings of these would be most welcome.

©Mike Fuller

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When (in 1958) Bishop Roger Wilson asked for his personal mail to be forwarded, he said that his new address would be 'The Palace', Chichester. The girl asked him: "Would that be a dance hall or a cinema?"



© CHRISTIAN CRACKERS THROUGH THE YEAR by Phil Mason, published by Monarch

## FULLY ALIVE

### “The glory of god is a human being fully alive”

St Irenaeus

In Lent 2009, the Diocese of Salisbury is embarking on a project called **Fully Alive**. Under the **Fully Alive** umbrella, we plan to draw together much of what we have been engaged in over the last few years in our exploration of what it is to be mature Christian disciples and re-focus on these three strands of our lives:

- ◆ **Our formation:** being nurtured in the Christian faith in a way that helps us to know and cherish the self that God has gifted.
- ◆ **Our vocation:** working out our faith in how we live with one another in a way that helps us to cherish the self that is the other.
- ◆ **Our mission:** the process of how we come to faith and draw others into it.

The project begins with talks given by Timothy Radcliffe, a famous preacher and author and former Master of the world-wide Dominican Order. His visit will begin and end with 'stand-alone' talks in Salisbury Cathedral on the 25<sup>th</sup> February and the 1<sup>st</sup> April. His main contribution will be to speak about living fully as a Christian in three different centres each week — St John's Church, Devizes, Salisbury Cathedral, and St Mary's, Dorchester. His addresses form the first phase of the project.

The later phases move out from this beginning in ever wider circles and quite deliberately with less and less direction from the centre.

After Easter 2009 study material will be devised which will build on his talks, to be used at local level as appropriate. The clergy conference at Swanwick in July will develop the theme, and there will be ideas and opportunities to live more fully as the project continues through to Pentecost 2010. The full range of planned activities can be found on the Fully Alive website.

**Fully Alive** isn't just a lecture series, a study course, or a series of events — although it could be all of these. Instead it is an invitation to become fully alive, and by doing so to encourage others to do so too. Further information and material, including video clips, will be provided on the Fully Alive website [www.Fully-Alive.co.uk](http://www.Fully-Alive.co.uk)

# SAINTS CORNER

## February 24<sup>th</sup> Matthias the Apostle

Have you ever been in the position where someone is desperately needed, and you fit the bill perfectly? It is almost as if all your miscellaneous qualifications that never made much sense before now make PERFECT sense. And you sense that you have been chosen by God for the task. If so, then Matthias is definitely the patron saint for you! Matthias came into the picture shortly after the suicide of Judas. The early church was missing an apostle, and so the remaining 11 apostles prayed for guidance on who to choose as a replacement for this key role.

The qualifications for the job were specialised: the person had to have been a follower of Christ from his Baptism to his Ascension and a witness of the Resurrection. There were two possibilities: Joseph Barsabas and Matthias. But how to choose?

Again, Matthias's experience may mirror yours; the decision was out of his hands, and up to others. In this case, the apostles drew straws – and the 'lot' fell to Matthias. He had been chosen to replace Judas! The tragedy of Judas's betrayal had led to an opportunity for service by Matthias, and he was well prepared for the task. Are you prepared for any task that God might suddenly open before you?

Like the other apostles, Matthias had been in Jerusalem and had received the gift of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, and he went on to do a good job. It is said he preached the Good News first in Judea, and then maybe in Cappadocia and by the Caspian Sea. It is thought he was martyred by the axe or halberd, and his relics eventually ended up being taken to Rome by the empress Helen.

Matthias is an encouragement to us to be faithful in small things, because you never know what the future might hold!

Source: Parish Pump

A clergyman's wife was a shopaholic; she couldn't resist buying clothes. He pointed out that they couldn't afford for her to buy a dress each time she went to town, and suggested that the next time she was tempted she should say: "Get thee behind me Satan".

Next day she came home with a new dress. "Did you forget what I said?" asked the sorely tried husband. "No", she replied, a little abashed. I tried the dress on and said "Get thee behind me, Satan!". He did so, and said that it looked even better from the back, so I couldn't resist getting it."

Supplied by Enid German

## FOR PRAYER IN FEBRUARY

We pray for:

- ◆ The homeless in our community
- ◆ Our local schools and their teachers and students
- ◆ Our own Lenten preparations
- ◆ Our Lent Groups and Lent School

### *In the year of the bicentenary of the birth of Charles Darwin:*

If a watch proves the existence of a watchmaker but the universe does not prove the existence of a great architect, then I consent to be called a fool.

Voltaire.

No philosophical theory which I have yet come across is a radical improvement on the words of Genesis, that 'in the beginning God made heaven and earth.

CS Lewis

### **Interfaith Group Meeting**

*Living under occupation, Judith Hammond*

17<sup>th</sup> February, 6.30pm for 7pm

At Bridge House, Stallard Street, Trowbridge.  
(Entrance through the side door via the Car park)

An informal discussion and refreshments will follow the talk.

### **Saxon Club Programme February 2009**

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

*You are very welcome to join us.*

- February 3rd: 30 years of teaching — Val Payne  
10th: Sicily — Alun Glyn Jones  
17th: Journey of Contrasts in Delhi — Rosemary Harrott  
24th: To be decided — Rev. Ian Stanes

# Quick Crossword

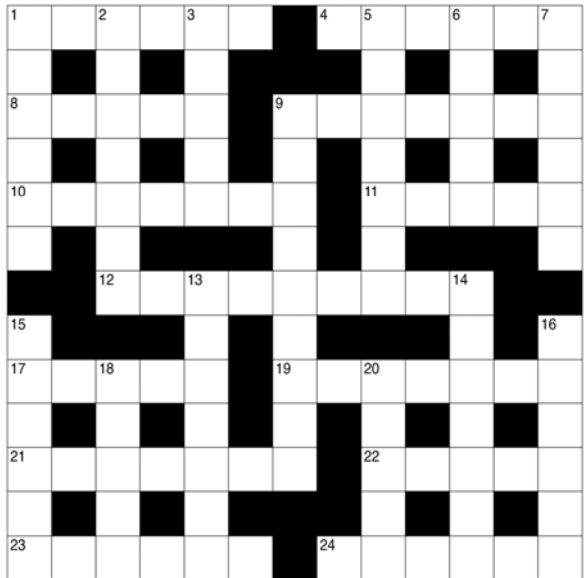
The Bible version is the NIV

## Clues across

- 1 'This is a hard teaching. Who can — it?' (John 6:60) (6)  
 4 'As a bride — herself with her jewels' (Isaiah 61:10) (6)  
 8 'Bless those who — you, pray for those who ill-treat you' (Luke 6:28) (5)  
 9 'He was a — man, with a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures' (Acts 18:24) (7)  
 10 Not properly aligned (3,4)  
 11 Lo, Ben (anag.) (5)  
 12 'All the — of the Egyptians died' (Exodus 9:6) (9)  
 17 Advantage (Daniel 11:27) (5)  
 19 'That — serpent called the devil' (Revelation 12:9) (7)  
 21 'The — took the men into Joseph's house' (Genesis 43:24) (7)  
 22 I bade (anag.) (5)  
 23 'And the — with his sickle at harvest' (Jeremiah 50:16) (6)  
 24 'Remember the — from which you have fallen!' (Revelation 2:5) (6)

## Clues down

- 1 Used to secure a ship at sea (Acts 27:13) (6)  
 2 'Be very — , then, how you live' (Ephesians 5:15) (7)  
 3 Portion (Luke 24:42) (5)  
 5 'Let not my heart be — — what is evil' (Psalm 141:4) (5,2)  
 6 Rhythm and Blues (1,3,1)  
 7 'He said to his sons, " — the donkey for me"' (1 Kings 13:13) (6)  
 9 Source of illumination (Daniel 5:5) (9)  
 13 'Two of them were going to a — called Emmaus' (Luke 24:13) (7)  
 14 'Remember the Sabbath day by — it holy' (Exodus 20:8) (7)  
 15 Roman Emperor (John 19:15) (6)  
 16 'Go to the house of Judas on Straight — ' (Acts 9:11) (6)  
 18 Stadium (1 Corinthians 4:9) (5)  
 20 'Day and night will never — ' (Genesis 8:22) (5)



## PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - OFFICERS

Canon Bill Matthews (Chairman)  
Joan Finch (Churchwarden & VC)  
Jeremy Lavis (Hon. Treasurer)

Tony Haffenden (Churchwarden)  
Graham Dove (Hon. Secretary)

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

## 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: *vacancy*

Treasurer: John Woods

Committee:

Anne Carter; Bryan Harris; Jeremy Lavis;  
Rev Angela Onions; Mike Smith

Ex officio:

Canon Bill Matthews; Joan Finch; Tony Haffenden

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Distribution:

John and Beryl Cox (864270)

Subscriptions Collector:

Mary Ford (862240)

Price:

Annual subscription £4.50 in advance .

### **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 Licensed Lay Ministers.

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	862240
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.  
Printed at the Parish Office, 18A Woolley Street, Bradford on Avon.*