

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Bradford on Avon



PARISH NEWS

APRIL 2009

web edition

DIRECTORY

Vicar

Canon Bill Matthews The Vicarage, 18A Woolley Street
864444
e-mail: vicar@brad-avon-ht.org.uk

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 Palairret Close 863878

Tony Haffenden 6 Folly Field 864412

Parish Administrator

Graham Dove 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

10 am Wednesdays

(weekdays)

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) 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 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

As we embark on another Holy Week and Easter, we are very conscious of history and sequence. In our liturgy, we are recalling, one after another, Jesus's entry into Jerusalem, the Last Supper, the agony in the garden, the betrayal and arrest, the trial and crucifixion, the burial – and then the Resurrection.

This approach, hallowed by possibly sixteen centuries of tradition, allows us to focus on each event in turn, give it its due weight, and then move on to the next. As fallible human beings, with a limited attention-span, it's a very helpful way of avoiding a sort of spiritual over-consumption.

But it's quite important to remember that, as far as we know, the earliest approach was to celebrate an all-in-one festival of death-and-resurrection. It was not so much a historical recollection as an annual celebration of the good news of Redemption, of deliverance from the powers of sin and death, a feast of deliverance celebrated at the same time as the Jewish celebration of God's deliverance of his people from the bondage of slavery in Egypt.

Set in the springtime, Easter was from the first a celebration of the renewal of God's people, individually by their reinvigorated sense of what their freedom in Christ meant, and corporately by the admission into the church's fellowship of new members at the great Easter baptism.

Past history and recollection are vital parts of an incarnational faith, rooted in events that happened once and for all in space and time. But an incarnational faith is one that also hallows and celebrates the here and now, that actively lives out that faith. The past has living consequences, which can, and should, transform.

In the Easter Liturgy, we say, "Alleluia, Christ is risen! He is risen indeed. Alleluia!" Not "he rose", but "he is risen". The whole point of this time of Lent, Holy Week and Easter is to give us, as we live our lives in this stressful and confusing world, an underlying joy, hope and confidence. As the Easter hymn says, 'Christ is risen, we are risen, shed upon us heavenly grace... that we, with our hearts in heaven here on earth may fruitful be.'

Let us pray that this Holy Week and Easter will give us that sense of freedom and hope. A very joyous Easter to you all.

Bill Mattes

DIARY FOR APRIL



5 SUNDAY

9.30 am

PALM SUNDAY

Palm Procession from Saxon Church &
Sung Eucharist

6 pm

Compline

6-8 Mon-Weds

7.45 pm

Stations of the Cross & Holy Communion

9 THURSDAY

8 pm

MAUNDY THURSDAY

Liturgy of the Last Supper

9 pm - m'nt

Watch of Prayer

10 FRIDAY

10.30 am

GOOD FRIDAY

Junior Church Workshop

11 am

'Follow the Cross'

Hall
Westbury
Gardens

2 pm

Liturgy of the Last Hour

11 SATURDAY

HOLY SATURDAY

8 pm

Compline & Preparation for Easter Communion

12 SUNDAY

EASTER DAY

9.30 am

Sung Eucharist & Easter Ceremonies

6 pm

Evensong at Christ Church

16 Thursday

7.30 pm

Mothers' Union

June Fleming - 'Hope Nature Centre - Church Hall
Southwick'

19 SUNDAY

EASTER 2

9.30 am

Family Communion

6 pm

Taizé Service with Prayer for Hope & Health

26 SUNDAY

EASTER 3

9.30 am

Sung Eucharist

6 pm

Sung Evensong

29 Wednesday

10 am

Catherine of Siena

Holy Communion is usually at 8 am each Sunday

Copy Date for May is 19th April

HOLY TRINITY MOTHERS' UNION

Having just been to Diocesan Council, and heard what is going on in our diocese and in our outreach in the world, I encouraged members to read the Diocesan magazine *Windows*, which tells them all about it, too. Last year this diocese sent £18,500 to the Overseas fund, and Mary Sumner House sent £20,000 to Mundri in the Sudan, so we can all see how much money is needed in this fund.

It was a joy to welcome the Vicar who spoke at our March meeting about Preparation for Holy Week and Easter. He likened our journey through life to the journey of Jesus entering Jerusalem on Palm Sunday through to his departing this earthly life on Good Friday, and joining His Father in Heaven – from the joy and welcome of the crowds on Palm Sunday to the loneliness, suffering and desolation of the Cross on Good Friday. He drew parallels with parts of our lives, when we go through bad times, suffer bereavement, *etc.* He reminded us that we do nothing to earn God's love; it is freely given to us all.

Interspersed between the various passages were verses of hymns special to him – *My song is love unknown; From glory to glory advancing; We have a gospel to proclaim;* and that lovely Easter hymn, *Alleluia, alleluia, hearts to heaven and voices raise.* The verses he chose were so applicable to the part of Holy Week he was talking about. And then we had a prayer to close that section.

It gave us much food for thought, and I'm sure it will help us in our journey through Holy Week, accepting what we are, and glorying in the Grace so freely given us, but at what cost?

It will be the last time Bill will come to address our meeting, and it was one we shall remember for a long time.

We also looked forward to a morning of fellowship later in the week when we shall be making 100 posies for distribution on Mothering Sunday, something the Mothers' Union has done for many years, and will continue to do, I hope. We also look forward to enjoying the Simnel cake made by Joy, in carrying on the tradition set up by Joan Dering. Bless you, Joy: Joan is delighted that you're still doing it to her recipe.

I send Joan all our news every few months in a long letter, she now replies by phone, as writing letters is getting beyond her, but she does love to keep in touch.

Chris Hodge

Gerald is now recovering well from his spell in hospital with pneumonia, and he and Chris would like to thank our church family for all the cards, enquiries and visits made over the past month. Your concern and interest have been a real boost to him.

Junior Church News

Our Junior Church numbers are rising
—hooray!

We are having our Good Friday workshop in the morning at 10.30am this year. This will involve making the Easter Garden which will take about an hour and then we shall take it over to the Church.

We shall have drinks and biscuits/buns.

All children and adults interested are welcome to join us in sharing this special Easter Message.

GROWING



LEARNING

Alison, Junior Church Team

FOR PRAYER IN APRIL

We pray for:

- ◆ **A deeper understanding of the mysteries of Easter**
- ◆ **The joy of Easter to fill our hearts**
- ◆ **Our witness to the resurrection of Christ**
- ◆ **The ability to proclaim the message of Easter**

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

1.3 Annabelle Jessica Swinney
1.3 Sophia Kate Swinney
15.3 Lewis Alexander Williams

Funerals

18.1 David Pinder

PARISH PROFILE

Kathryn and Anthony Swift



This is a Parish Profile where there are more years to write about before the couple met than after their meeting. Kathryn was born in Havorfordwest, in Wales, in 1971 but after six years the family moved to Llanelli where she and her young brother, Philip, later became members of St Michael and All Angels junior church choir in Dafen. They lived there for 12 years, and Kathryn was an active member of the Brownies, learnt to play the piano, and was also a bit of a tomboy, spending hours out cycling and trying out too many tricky stunts!

At 18 Kathryn went to Cardiff University to study for an honours degree in Ancient and Mediæval History. Learning was always a passion of hers, and having completed three postgraduate qualifications in various places she is currently studying for a Psychology qualification with the Open University. After completing her

history degree she gained legal qualifications and began practising with local solicitors in Llanelli. However, she then decided she really wanted to retrain as a primary-school teacher and started her first post at Aveley, Essex, spending five happy years there and making lots of friends. She currently teaches a lively class of 5-year olds at St Stephen's in Bath, having moved there in 2002 to be nearer her parents and sister.

Anthony was born in Bath in 1975 and a fortnight before his birth his parents were told that he would be one of twins; his sister was born 5 minutes before he was. He grew up in Combe Down and went to Beechen Cliff School, particularly enjoying tennis there, and he later represented the County at a junior level. He fondly recalls summer holidays in Devon and Dorset, once being cut off by the tide and scrambling to safety over the rocks with his brother.

In the sixth form he regularly competed in military assault courses in Wiltshire to raise funds for local charities and he also spent a month doing work experience at the Western Daily Press. On leaving school in 1993 he worked at the Royal United Hospital as a Laboratory Assistant in the Histology Unit of the Pathology department, which he found very interesting. In 1996 he joined the Avon and Somerset Constabulary and started police training in quite bleak areas of South Wales. He was first stationed at Radstock, covering a population of 50,000, and before the end of his two-year probation he became a beat manager with responsibility for the town of Radstock.

During this time he moved several times from rented properties, including a converted wheelwright's shop in Holcombe and a lodge house of Widcombe Manor in Bath. He spent several years on a drug squad in police stations in the Bristol area, and also in London, working with

Operation Trident. He now works as a Detective in the CID at Bath police station and enjoys his job, although the long hours can be a bit wearing.

It was through friends in Bath, in the summer of 2004, that Kathryn and Anthony met, and at the end of 2005 they bought a house in Bradford on Avon. Shortly afterwards they joined Holy Trinity and have said how very welcome they were made to feel. In June 2006, Anthony was confirmed, and they were married here in October that year.

They both enjoy travel, and have visited Brazil, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria and Western Europe, as well as English cities like York, Cambridge and Oxford. Skiing and the outdoor life appeal to both of them and Kathryn is an experienced runner. They have learnt DIY skills together and have numerous nieces and nephews. We hope that they will enjoy many happy years here.

Pat Kitchen

Two brothers were fighting over a bar of chocolate. "That's not the way to behave", they were told. "If Jesus were here, he would say: 'You have the chocolate.'" One brother turned to the other and said: "You be Jesus".

Crossword solutions

Across
 1, Lawbreakers. 9, Neglect. 10, Reign. 11, Sit. 13, Idly. 16, Abel. 17, Agreed. 18, Hawk. 20, Swim. 21, Advise. 22, Esau. 23, Arts. 25, Bet. 28, Usher. 29, Hittite. 30, Trustworthy
Down
 2, Angel. 3, Bled. 4, Eats. 5, Kurt. 6, Rainbow. 7, Unrighteous. 8, Unblemished. 12, Irenic. 14, Yak. 15, Grudge. 19, Weather. 20, Sea. 24, Reith. 25, Bros. 26, Thaw. 27, Stir.

WOMEN'S WORLD DAY OF PRAYER

The Women's World Day of Prayer service was held this year on Friday March 6th in the comfortable and delightfully refurbished United Church. The theme, prepared by the women of Papua New Guinea, was of our unity in diversity, "In Christ there are many members yet one body". We were reminded of this 'body' firstly by signing ourselves in on a paper gingerbread man and then each being given a real gingerbread man to eat.

Comprising 600 islands with an estimated 1000 cultural groups and speaking 800 different languages of which 4 are considered official, PNG seemed to have chosen a subject on which they might be thought to have some authority!

We were glad that our gathering included people from nearly all the churches in Bradford on Avon and from some of the surrounding villages. A team of about 10 women drawn from those congregations helped to lead the service.

Many of us found the service one of the best of recent years, as the theme was constantly before us in the hymns, readings and prayers. We were also glad to find, when the time came to sing hymns, that the words had been set to familiar tunes so that everyone could join in.

We were very moved to hear of the courageous action of the PNG women in helping to end the civil war that raged from 1989 until 2004. As many peace attempts had failed over 8 years, the Premier finally asked for the women's help. For the first time ever an incredibly diverse group from different languages, traditions and denominations travelled over land and sea to Arawa where the crisis had originated. After a week of discussion and prayer a small group dared to go into the bush and confront the rebels. This was the beginning of the peace process.

Our speaker was the Rev Gwyneth Owen of Audley Central Methodist Church, Staffordshire. She reinforced the message of our unity as the body of Christ and also reminded us that this same service was being used throughout the world and that the wave of prayer would continue for 24 hours as the light moved round the globe. She concluded by challenging us to emulate the women of PNG by finding something that we could do together as Christian women in Bradford on Avon really to contribute something valuable to our community. A challenge we are finding hard to forget!

After the service itself ended we were given tea and delicious cakes and were able to examine some crafts from PNG that had been lent by Jonquil Burgess. These included a length of cloth made from beaten bark and patterned with native plant dyes and a woven basket. These baskets come in many sizes and carry everything from vegetables to children.

It was altogether a very inspiring afternoon and I do encourage any women who have not been to this service before to look out for it next year on the first Friday in March.

Kate Wiggins

Gentlemen are also welcome to come next year. There were several who attended this year. Eds.

STREET MARKET 2009: Saturday 4th July

It seems early to be thinking about our annual Street Market. However, those weeks just slip by, so... a date for your diary. The 2009 Street Market will be held in Westbury Gardens, Bradford on Avon, on Saturday 4th July. Now, is a good time to begin putting aside those unwanted items, to ensure that this year's stalls are fully stocked. DVDs, videos and CDs were popular last year, so we are going to add a table for those.

I am pleased to say that we have the same team of organisers as before. They say it gets easier the second time around, we shall see! The team is:

John Cox	Community Stalls	864270
Colin Johnston	Church Stalls	868132
Stephanie Moorfoot	Advertising and Communications	863366



The Bookstall and the Garden stall,

Street Market 2008

Last year our Street Market was a great success, thanks to our loyal stallholders and many supporters. We hope we can rely on your help once again. There are so many jobs that need to be done to make things go with a swing and raise some healthy funds for our magnificent church.

If you have any suggestions or can help out please contact us. As you will see below many of our stallholders will be returning once again, and we are very grateful to them.

Books	Margaret Morris and helpers
Bottle Tombola	Vacancy
Grand Draw	Anthony & Kathryn Swift and ticket writers
Pantry (Cakes & Preserves)	Chris Hodge & Mothers Union members
Plants and Garden	Colin Johnston and helpers
Quality Bric-à-brac & Collectables	Tony Haffenden, John Cox & Vic Holden
Saxon Club	Angela Onions and members of the Club
Toys	Alison Cook (Sunday school)
Teas & Refreshments	Anne Carter, Joan Finch and helpers

We have one stall vacancy this year, the very popular Bottle Tombola. We would like two or three people to volunteer to organise this stall. Please contact one of the committee to find out more or to let us know if you can help. Many thanks to Ian and Sylvia Stanes for running this stall for the past few years.

Finally, I took some photographs of last years Street Market; unfortunately I changed computers after Christmas, and now cannot 'find' them! If anyone has any Street Market pictures that could be used in future Parish News articles, please let me know. My email address is given below.

Many thanks,

Stephanie Moorfoot
(smoorfoot@hotmail.com)



The Saxon Club stall, 2008

From Liz Netley...

Thank you so much to everyone who has sent good wishes, positive thoughts and cards to me and also for your prayers. I have been so touched by your kindness.

May I request further prayers for a time while more tests and treatment is carried on? I have felt very comforted – rather like having a lovely soft duvet as a safety net.

Liz Netley

AN ART APPRECIATION HOLIDAY IN MALTA

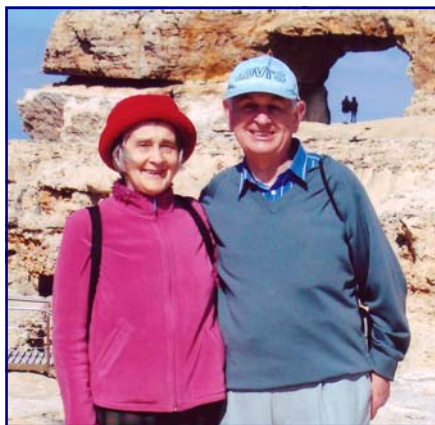
led by Canon Peter Hardman

On 23rd February, eight of us set off at 6.30pm to begin the journey to our holiday in Malta. With Peter and Frances Hardman, who were to lead us, we had an easy journey to Gatwick, where we met the rest of our group of twenty-five who came from all over the country. The Saga representative met us at the airport; we had a wonderfully trouble-free check-in and were soon greeting old friends, including Jennifer and Allan Sturmeay and people from previous Hardman holidays. The flight to Malta was good and our arrival was made easy by the Saga representative who soon had us aboard the coach which took us north to our hotel, the Coastline, in Salina Bay.

Although only a small island, Malta has a very colourful history. Because of its strategic position in the middle of the Mediterranean, There have been many attackers and occupiers, including the Phoenicians, Romans, Turks and, perhaps most famously, the Knights of St John who occupied the island and were responsible for holding out against the Turks in the Great Siege of 1565. The Knights left a wonderful legacy of great art and architecture. Later Malta

had a long period of British Colonial rule. The island suffered terribly in the Second World War and its bravery in holding out against the German and Italian attack was rewarded by the award of the George Cross to the whole island.

The Coastline Hotel where we stayed is a beautiful hotel overlooking Salina and St Paul's Bay where St Paul was shipwrecked on his journey to trial before Caesar in Rome. The hotel had just been taken over by Saga and during our holiday we had a gala dinner attended by the chief executives of Saga and Judith Chalmers. The hotel manager was awarded the prize for Saga's best hotel, world wide. We met Jane Jellico, an art historian, who was to tell us about the places we were to visit. We had a very full programme which started with two talks, the first an introduction to



The Hardmans in front of the 'Azure Window', Gozo photo: Margaret Harkcom

baroque and the second an illustrated talk about some of the artists like Matteo Preti and Caravaggio whose work we would see.

We visited many wonderful baroque churches, cathedrals and museums, including the 16th century St John's Co-Cathedral in Valetta which, until 1798, was the Conventual Church of the Order of the Knights of St John. It received many of its treasures from the Knights including a wonderful ceiling showing the life of John the

Baptist by Preti and its greatest treasure, two wonderful paintings by Caravaggio, showing the beheading of John the Baptist and a picture of St Jerome. During our stay, we also visited the church of St Paul Shipwreck, which contained part of St Paul's wrist bone and part of the block on which he was said to have been beheaded in Rome. Another interesting church was the huge parish church in Mosta – the Rotunda. It has an enormous dome and during the war a 200kg German bomb dropped through the dome and rolled down the aisle in the nave during Mass but failed to explode! The Maltese call it a miracle. The church in Naxxar's claim to fame was that St Paul preached from its steps when he was on the island. In the church in Rabat there was a wonderful altar piece designed by Preti and the grotto under the church where St Paul was supposed to have lived while he was in Malta. We also visited the Crypt of St Agatha, a medieval rock-cut church built on the site of the cave where St Agatha prayed. She was said to be the next person after St Paul to convert the Maltese to Christianity. As well as St Agatha's Catacombs we visited St Paul's Catacombs. Both were Roman cemeteries in use until the 4th century AD. We went to St Paul's Cathedral in the former capital city of Medina – 'The Silent City'. Here we saw more of the ornate baroque decoration and two wonderful paintings of St Paul's conversion and the Shipwreck, both painted by Preti. In the Cathedral Museum there is a wealth of paintings, sculptures and marble mosaics. In addition there were woodcuts by Dürer, about whom Jane Jellico had talked to us and a painting of the Madonna and Child, said to be



The Mosta Rotunda Church

by St Luke who was shipwrecked with St Paul.

Medina is a wonderful, medieval, fortified city built on the top of the hill. It proved to be impregnable when the Turks attacked it, thus saving the island.

In addition to the fine churches, we visited many palaces, former residences of the Knights. The Grand Master's Palace in Valetta was the official residence of the Grand Masters until 1798 and is now home to Malta's Parliament. Inside many of the state apartments are friezes showing episodes from the history of the Order. Here we saw many works of art which were often collected by the Grand Masters who all wanted to leave a legacy to their memory. We also visited some smaller palaces including the Palazzo Parisio and the 16th century palace of Casa Rocca Piccola. The guides in both of these former homes of Knights were present owners of the palaces and were pleased to show us their homes.

Another superb visit was a day trip to Gozo, the second largest Maltese Island. We travelled on the 25-minute ferry crossing, then toured the narrow

roads on the island on a local coach. We went to the capital, Victoria, stopping on the way at the beautiful Rotunda Church of St John. We visited the church of Ta'Pinu, the miracle church where a villager claimed to have heard the voice of the Virgin Mary. This church is a centre of pilgrimage for both Gozotans and Maltese and is noted for its miraculous cures. We continued on to Dwejra and reached the Inland Sea and the wonderful Azure Window, a natural rock arch. We also saw the legendary Fungus Rock on which grows a rare plant which the Knights claimed had medicinal properties. We went to the craft village of Sannat where we saw hand-made lace being produced and were able to buy lace, woollens and other local crafts. We returned to Victoria where some of the group watched a film of the history of Gozo while others climbed up to the imposing Citadel which probably dates from Roman times. This was the home and stronghold of the island's medieval people and later aristocracy until 1551 when the island was attacked by the Turks and the Citadel fell. Many of the islanders were rounded up and taken into slavery.

Because we were in Malta for the beginning of Lent, Peter celebrated an early morning Communion Service for us on Ash Wednesday. We also met together on most evenings to review our day and finish with a service of Compline.

On the last Sunday of our visit — St David's Day, Peter arranged a coach to take us to the Anglican Cathedral in Valetta for a sung Communion Service. There was a very jolly Welsh priest and during the service we were privileged to share a lovely act of worship. HMS Bulwark was in port and one of the crew had been asked to be godfather to a little boy who was being baptised in Weston-super-Mare. Then, as the ship's chaplain said, "he was sent to sea!" However, he made his promises in the middle of the Communion service while the baby was being baptised in England!

We had a very early start on Monday — cases out by 4.50am and breakfast at 5.15am. We were off to the airport at 6am and had an excellent journey home after a wonderful holiday with amazing things to see, excellent accommodation, wonderful friendships and memories to treasure.

Valerie Payne

Sound systems... (does this ring any bells?)

A new sound system is being installed in the cathedral. It will be the third in my time. Once more, huge sums of money are involved. I am naturally of a nervous disposition but this time I really worry. Will it do all that it is meant to do? Will it send percussive stutters down the nave like the last one, interspersed with cavernous booms reminiscent of the battlefields of the Somme? Is it verger-proof? Will it pick up taxi conversations? Shall we be replacing it in another five years? I ask the suit with the clipboard. His answer is simple. "Have faith. Believe." "Why should I believe?" I ask.

From The Times, Saturday March 6th, article by John Shepherd, Dean of Perth.

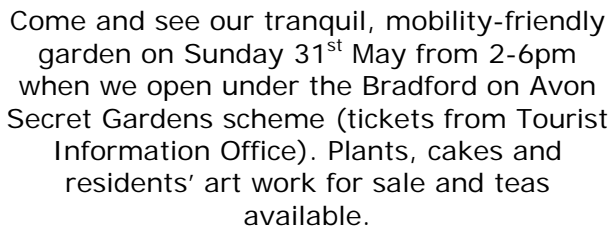
Abbeyfield

If you are an older person and you need a change of scene, or if those who usually help you need a break but want to know that you are well supported in their absence, why not spend some time at Abbeyfield House near the centre of beautiful Bradford on Avon. Or you might want a short 'taster' of what life in Abbeyfield would be like. Our comfortable guest room can be booked for short stays of up to 3 weeks.

- ◆ Your own en-suite single room with all linen provided and mini-kitchen.
- ◆ Two home-cooked meals per day in our dining room and ingredients to make continental breakfast in your room.
- ◆ Live-in House Manager, lifeline emergency call system, suitable aids/ adaptations.
- ◆ Comfortable residents' lounge and weekly activities.
- ◆ Car parking and sunny garden with summerhouse.
- ◆ Come and go as you please. Visitors welcome.
- ◆ Friendly group of ten residents.
- ◆ Short level walk into the town centre with its shops, tea rooms, country park, river and canal walks; good rail and road links.
- ◆ Room and all meals £32 per 24 hours.

We sometimes have permanent vacancies too so it is always worth inquiring or making an appointment to call in for a chat and a look around.

Interested? Find out more by contacting our House Manager at:
Abbeyfield House, 2, Trowbridge Road, Bradford on Avon, Wilts BA15 1EP
Telephone: 01225 864334.
Email: abbeyfield.boa@tiscali.co.uk



Come and see our tranquil, mobility-friendly garden on Sunday 31st May from 2-6pm when we open under the Bradford on Avon Secret Gardens scheme (tickets from Tourist Information Office). Plants, cakes and residents' art work for sale and teas available.

SPONSORS

Many thanks to everyone who regularly contributes through our stewardship scheme and helps in so many other ways.

We also appreciate it when members of the congregation ask if they can offer additional help to pay for much needed work in the church.

For those that would like to know how they can provide this additional help, we are seeking funds to update the Sacristy and improve the lighting and the sound system. Or you could sponsor a floral display in Church to commemorate a special occasion.

If you would like to help please have a word with the Churchwardens, with an indication of what you would like your money used for.

Churchwardens



...and we thought you would like to know...

"It comes to something when the state of the pound is such that we *hope* to find lots of foreign coins!"

Diocese of Salisbury



This certificate is presented to

Bradford on Avon Holy Trinity PCC

**For the full payment of their Parish Share
of £68,764 for 2008**

With grateful thanks

Stephen Leamy
Bishop

[Signature]
Chairman - Board of Finance

Forgiveness

One day, the sage gave the disciple an empty sack and a basket of potatoes. "Think of all the people who have done or said something against you in the recent past, especially those you cannot forgive. For each of them, inscribe the name on a potato and put it in the sack." The disciple came up quite a few names, and soon his sack was heavy with potatoes.

"Carry the sack with you wherever you go for a week." said the sage. "We'll talk after that." At first, the disciple thought nothing of it. Carrying the sack was not particularly difficult. But after a while, it became more of a burden. It sometimes got in the way, and it seemed to need more effort to carry as time went on, even though its weight remained the same. After some days, the sack began to smell; the carved potatoes gave off a ripe odour. Not only were they increasingly inconvenient to carry around, they were also becoming rather unpleasant. Finally, the week was over.

The sage summoned the disciple. "Any thoughts about all this?" "Yes, Master," the disciple replied. "When we are unable to forgive others, we carry negative feelings with us everywhere, much like these potatoes. That negativity becomes a burden to us and, after a while, it festers." "Yes, that is exactly what happens when one holds a grudge. So, how can we lighten the load?"

"We must strive to forgive. Forgiving someone is the equivalent of removing the corresponding potato from the sack. How many of your transgressors are you able to forgive?" "I've thought about it quite a bit, Master," the disciple said. "It required much effort, but I have decided to forgive all of them."

"Very well, we can remove all the potatoes. Were there any more people

who transgressed against you this last week?" The disciple thought for a while and admitted there were. Then he felt panic when he realized his empty sack was about to get filled up again.

"Master," he asked, "if we continue like this, wouldn't there always be potatoes in the sack week after week?" "Yes, as long as people speak or act against you in some way, you will always have potatoes." "But Master, we can never control what others do. So what good is the Tao in this case?" "We're not at the realm of the Tao yet. Everything we have talked about so far is the conventional approach to forgiveness. It is the same thing that many philosophies and most religions preach — we must constantly strive to forgive, for it is an important virtue. This is not the Tao because there is no striving in the Tao."

"Then what is the Tao, Master?" "You can figure it out. If the potatoes are negative feelings, then what is the sack?" "The sack is... that which allows me to hold on to the negativity. It is something within us that makes us dwell on feeling offended.... Ah, it is my inflated sense of self-importance."

"And what will happen if you let go of it?" "Then... the things that people do or say against me no longer seem like such a major issue." "In that case, you won't have any names to inscribe on potatoes. That means no more weight to carry around, and no more bad smells."

The Tao of forgiveness is the conscious decision not just to remove some potatoes... but to relinquish the entire sack.

Supplied by Margaret Purves

TANZANIA – JANUARY 2009

Kilimanjaro, the iconic mountain of Tanzania, is permanently capped with snow although it lies only 3 degrees south of the equator. An extinct volcano, at 5895 metres (19,340ft) it is the highest mountain in the continent of Africa. This photo was taken from the veranda of our daughter's house when we were staying with her earlier this year. Framed by the banana and mango trees in her garden, it is an elusive mountain often cloaked in clouds but usually visible in the early morning and late afternoon. In a household of children, waking up early is inevitable, but it was magic to walk out onto the veranda at that time and see the mountain's pristine white snow seemingly near enough to touch. Sadly, the ice cap is visibly reduced from that we remember when



Mount Kilimanjaro

photo: Alan Knight

we last visited East Africa about ten years ago; the locals will tell you that there is more black rock visible year-on-year. The more pessimistic scientists predict that the glaciers on the mountain will be completely gone in 20 years, the more optimistic ones give them 30 to 40 years. In either case, this is a "blink of an eye" in the context of previous episodes of climate change.

We were based in the sizable town of Moshi which lies in the foot hills of Kilimanjaro on the cross roads from Dar es Salaam to Arusha on the Kenyan border. These main roads are fully tarmaced now and, near the town,

are lined with magnificent trees, jacaranda and flame trees which were in flower when we were there. The traffic is organised chaos with no traffic lights but there was a roundabout (called Keepee Lettie!) and a landmark clock tower which gave some measure of order. The town was bustling and appeared prosperous, the sidewalks an obstacle course with items for sale, people sitting chatting and ladies sitting outside their shops busy on their Singer sewing machines or discussing patterns — with their clients.

The covered market was full of stalls overflowing with fruit, vegetables, fish and meat, sacks of rice and maize. I was struck by how fit physically the people appeared as well as being very cheerful and friendly. I did not see the signs of old polio or

the red hair and protruding bellies of malnourished children which were common when I worked in East Africa 40 years ago. Tanzania has been a relatively stable country, politically, since it gained Independence in 1961 and this, of course is fundamental to the provision of long-term healthcare and education. Surprisingly, the average life expectancy in the country is still only 44 years but such a low figure is likely to reflect the AIDS epidemic affecting this part of Africa

We went to the local Protestant church, a modern octagonal building which was light and airy with a high

lantern roof. The congregation was a mixture of expatriates and Africans, all very friendly and welcoming. The service was informal; visitors were asked to stand up and identify themselves and we were not alone in being grandparents visiting their children. My daughter has said how much she appreciated the support she was getting from church members in the difficult task of settling her family into their new and very different environment. Among the expatriates were several other young couples with children coming from all over the world, Canada, USA, Germany and Holland among others, doing all sorts of work in teaching, medical care and agriculture for example. Our grand daughters go to the International School in Moshi where one of their teachers is a Fijian lady. The school takes children from 3 to 19 years, boarding and day, African and expatriate taking international exams. It is a very happy and lively campus where we spent several afternoons enjoying the use of their swimming pool.

We spent a few days "on safari" driving in a Land rover (four adults and three small children plus luggage) to Tarangire Game Park which is a four hour drive from Moshi, again now tarmac most of the way then dirt roads through the park. It was good to see again the open countryside with the dramatic backdrop of the mountain range which includes Mount Meru and to see the Maasai herdsmen in their familiar scarlet cloaks, the young boys in charge of the goats and the older men with the responsibility of the much more valuable cattle, the Maasai wealth. In the park we lived under canvas but this was no ordinary camp. We had a large capacious tent with comfortable beds, a veranda with table and chairs in the front and an en suite shower

and flush toilet at the back ; electric light was run out from the lodge but this was cut off at 11 pm and after that we were forbidden to leave our tents for safety reasons. We had to remember that the wild animals could and did come right up to the tents. One afternoon the children were given a big surprise when an inquisitive monkey popped its head through the tent flaps when they were playing inside. We also had to keep the children close by our sides when walking around the camp; they would have made a juicy lunch for any lurking predators! Elephant and a leopard passed near by the camp while we were there. The camp was perched on the edge of a ridge so that we could see across the park for miles and observe the animals as miniatures walking through the landscape. This park is more wooded than the more famous Serengeti and has a wide river flowing through, with almost no water now in the dry season but a magnet for animals in the rains. We drove through herds of elephants, the mothers with their young, past groups of the so elegant giraffes, and within yards of a pride ,, of lions lying in the noonday shade just their tails and ears twitching. We saw numerous zebra, antelope, gazelles, foxes, and the most colourful of birds; an absolute feast of wildlife. I was impressed that, with all the pressures of a rising population, Tanzania still sets aside so much of its land to provide these game reserves not only providing for the preservation of species, but also for lasting enjoyment of visitors, though tourism is of course a major earner of foreign currency. It was altogether a memorable visit and one I hope to repeat in the future while our family are there.

Heather Knight

Jackdaws

I should like to thank Liz Netley for the wonderful articles that she has written; they have given us a lot of pleasure. In her last article she spoke of flocks of jackdaws flying over her house. They fly over our house as well – two flocks, one over us and the other slightly to the north. I always thought that they were rooks as there are so many, and checked out with Brian. “Can’t be rooks, their call is jackdaws” – and I had to agree.

I had to apologise to them as I rely on them when I am in the garden.

They fly over my garden exactly half an hour before it gets dark (seagulls one hour). Sometimes they appear early and I shout out to them that they are early. But they call back that I should not rely on that thing around my wrist as it does not correct itself each night following the change of sunset time. They have never let me down.

When we were in London we had a fairly large enclosed garden and so were able to have a dog, a cat, guinea pigs, rabbits and, indoors, gerbils, a canary, a budgerigar, goldfish and tropical fish – not all at the same time!

When we came to Bradford on Avon, Charlie said he would like a pet but something different: “I would like a jackdaw”. OK fine, but how do you get a jackdaw? They are not sold in shops, that is for sure.

I asked around my friends of the country, and was told that gypsies have jackdaws and I found someone

who was prepared to take us to a gypsy camp. We were warned that we should be very careful to show that we knew how to look after a jackdaw and to be polite and listen to all they said. On no account should we offer any money as they will never accept money for animals/birds that are wild. Nature was not for sale.

They kept jackdaws because the birds warned them when any foreigner was coming into the camp. If they were friends they would fly around them and even land on them but not those whom they did not know.

It was an experience, firstly, to see the gypsies’ lovely rugs and bedding in the tents, just like the Bedouin in Jordan. When we came to the tent of the jackdaw keeper, he opened a long wooden box/cage and out came six baby jackdaws, it was fantastic. We were asked about them and how to keep them and we were obviously being checked and thankfully passed the test and so were given one. We had brought a cage and food and returned home. At first we had to feed him every hour or more often.

Once they are able to fly, they fly in the open. One day Spot landed on Sue’s shoulder in the house and took off her earring and flew to the window, Charlie was not with us so we had to try to get him to come back rather than fly away with it. Thankfully he came back to us and gave us the earring.



The jackdaw: *corvus monedula*

It was fun teaching him to fly up to other jackdaws as by the time he had got up to them, they had flown away! I had some fun with a paperboy who said to me as he was passing: "Look there is a bird on your roof", to which I replied: "If you whistle he will come to you". He replied, "I am not that silly". So I whistled and the bird flew down to me and landed on my shoulder. The paperboy's eyes popped out of his head and he could not run fast

enough to tell his friends. I have often wondered how many times he whistled to a bird in the hope that he would land on his shoulder.

The most wonderful sight was when a flock of jackdaws was returning over our house. Charlie called out and one of them peeled off and came down to land on his shoulder.

John Woods

Church attendance: provisional figures for 2007

The latest figures from the Church of England show that the overall number of people regularly attending church has altered little since the turn of the millennium. The 2007 figures confirm that attending a Church of England church (including cathedrals) is part of a typical week for some 1.2 million people.

Regular attendance: While the total number of people regularly attending church has dropped one per cent overall since 2002, 2007 showed similar numbers attending on an average week as in 2006, including slightly more adults. The figures suggest, however, that the number of under-16s attending services has fallen by four per cent between 2006 and 2007.

Marking life events: Baptisms rose between 2006 and 2007, specifically among children under 12 (six per cent, to 40,300) and adults (six per cent, to 10,200). Marriages in church also increased slightly to 54,600 (significant changes to marriage law which widened the number of churches where couples are eligible to be married did not take effect until October 2008 and their effect is not, therefore, reflected in these figures).

The traditional 'usual Sunday attendance' measure fell slightly in 2007 to 868,000 (2006: 871,000; 2005: 880,000).

Source: Parish Pump

Farmer: "Isn't it wonderful how the little chicks get out of their shells?"
Visitor from city: "Indeed. But what beats me is how they get in there, in the first place."

BOOK REVIEW: The Suspicions of Mr Whicher or The Murder at Road Hill House by Kate Summerscale

For those of us living in this area, this book has added interest as the village of Rode (the spelling has changed) is very near to Bradford on Avon. The book is not a novel but is a documentary tracing this notorious 19th century event from contemporary documents.

In 1860 Samuel Kent, an inspector of factories, lived with his second wife and children in Road Hill House (this name has also changed) which lies on the way from the old mill to the cross roads leading to Trowbridge, Frome and Bradford. His older children from his first marriage lived there with their father, their stepmother, the children of his second wife and the household servants.

On the night of 30th June, 1860, Saville, the three-year-old son, was found to be missing from his bed and was later found in the outside privy, head down with his throat cut, wrapped in a blanket from his bed.

From this stems a case which had the whole of England speculating as to the events going on in a country house in a small village. Mr Whicher, of the title, was one of the first eight detectives based in Scotland Yard in what was still a very new service. He was called down from London by a Great Western Railway telegraph to investigate the case after it had baffled the local constabulary of Rode, Southwick, Trowbridge, Frome and Devizes. He set up an investigation in the village and it is fascinating to follow the interviews and searches, conversations and journeys that he made during his quest.

The author has the knack of giving enough detail, taken from extensive and painstaking research, to conjure up the characters playing such important parts in this grisly drama. We can also imagine the village and its residents, its feuds, its characters, its class system and its buildings. It is even more of interest to visit the places in the village as many of them are still there, even if the names are changed, and the book has a helpful map in the front. It also lists the people involved who were real, of course, and lived nearby, including some with local names still to be found in the area.

The case was never really solved, but Constance, the daughter of the first wife, was imprisoned (she escaped the death penalty) for many years for the crime. Also, the nursemaid who was sleeping in the nursery with the children, including Saville at the time of his abduction, was a suspect for some time. It is of great social interest to read of the village and its people of this era as indeed it is to learn how the very early detective system functioned. The author makes the claim that this case, with all its mystery and ramifications, both locally and nationally, inspired a generation of writers who developed the new literary genre of the detective story. These writers were known to have read the newspaper articles and reports of the crime and to have written about it with interest, even contributing to the press discussion in the 1860s. Authors such as Wilkie Collins, Charles Dickens and Arthur Conan Doyle went on to expand the story of a country house with difficult relationships, a body,

a detective and the secrets of a household consisting of children, step-children and servants who worked in the house and in the grounds, all on the edge of a rural society shackled with a rigid class system.

Read the book! Visit the village! And ponder the mystery!

Cecilia Hynes-Higman

BRADFORD ON AVON COLLECTION POINT WEST WILTSHIRE CREDIT UNION

Credit unions are not just a 'poor person's bank' – they need savers and people on higher incomes too. Your savings are entirely safe. The interest rate on loans is only 1% per month on the decreasing monthly amount outstanding. There are no early repayment penalties. All savings and loans are protected by insurance regulated by the Financial Services Authority and covered by the Financial Services Compensation Scheme.

Invest in your community; join the local credit union and let those who most need to know into one of our best-kept secrets by spreading the word. Membership is open to all who live or work in the West Wiltshire area. Call in to see us on a Thursday morning between 10.30am and noon in the Lower Room, Church Hall, Church Street, Bradford on Avon or give Marlene a call on 01225 864412.

Important Diary Note

**Bill's last services in the Parish
will be on Sunday 7th June 2009.**

**The Bishop of Ramsbury will be
presiding at the 9.30am service.**

**Following the service everyone is
invited to join Bill and Jean and
their family for a celebration
buffet in St Margaret's Hall.**

SAINTS CORNER

March 3rd — Richard of Chichester (*ca* 1197 - 1253)

Did you ever wonder where the prayer ... 'May I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly, and follow thee more nearly, day by day' comes from? — Richard of Chichester, a bishop in the 13th century, wrote it.

He began life as Richard de Wych of Droitwich, the son of a yeoman farmer. But Richard was a studious boy and, after helping his father on the farm for several years, refused an advantageous offer of marriage, and instead made his way to Oxford, and later to Paris and Bologna to study canon law.

In 1235 he returned to Oxford, and was soon appointed Chancellor, where he supported Edmund, Archbishop of Canterbury, in his struggles against King Henry III's misuse of Church funds. After further study to become a priest, Richard was in due course made a bishop himself. He was greatly loved. He was charitable and accessible, both stern and merciful to sinners, extraordinarily generous to those stricken by famine, and a brilliant legislator of his diocese. He decreed that the sacraments were to be administered without payment, Mass celebrated in dignified conditions, the clergy to be chaste, to practise residence, and to wear clerical dress. The laity were obliged to attend Mass on Sundays and holy days, and to know by heart the Hail Mary in addition to the Lord's Prayer and the Creed.

Richard was also prominent in preaching the Crusade, which he saw as a call to re-open the Holy Land to pilgrims, not as a political expedition. He died at Dover on 3rd April 1253. In art, Richard of Chichester is represented with a chalice at his feet, in memory of his having once dropped the chalice at Mass! One ancient English church is dedicated to him.

And, of course, he is author of that famous prayer, now set to popular music, which runs in full:

'Thanks be to thee, my Lord Jesus Christ, for all the benefits thou hast given me,
for all the pains and insults which thou hast borne for me. O most merciful redeemer, friend and brother, may I know thee more clearly, love thee more dearly and follow thee more nearly, day by day.'

March 25th Mark (died *ca* 74)

Mark, whose home in Jerusalem became a place of rest for Jesus and his 12 apostles, is considered the traditional author of the second gospel. He is also usually identified as the young man, described in Mark 14.51, who followed Christ after his arrest and then escaped capture by leaving his clothes behind.

Papias, in 130, said that in later years Mark became Peter's interpreter. If so, then this close friendship would have been how Mark gathered so much information about Jesus's life. Peter referred to him affectionately as his 'son'.

Mark was also a companion to Paul on his journeys. When Paul was held captive in Rome, Mark was with him, helping him. Mark's Gospel, most likely written in Italy, perhaps in Rome, is the earliest account we have of the life of Jesus.

Early in the 9th century Mark's body was brought to Venice, whose patron he became, and there it has remained to this day. The symbol of Mark as an evangelist, the lion, is much in evidence in Venice.

Saxon Club Programme April 2009

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

April 7th	Easter Bonnets
14th	No club
21st	Beryl Cox - Australia & Fiji
28th	Early Lives
May 5th	Outing to Weymouth

Interfaith Group Meeting

On Palm Sunday, West Wiltshire Interfaith Group will be supporting a concert of sacred music and readings from religious traditions from around the world organized by Simon Tatton Brown.

Songs to the Blessed Mother

Mater Dei

Voice, Choir, Sarod and Tabla

Palm Sunday 5th April, 6.30pm

in St Andrew's Church, Chippenham.

Admission £8.00 (£7.00 concessions)

All profits will be given to the Gaza Appeal

Homes for Palestinians

Those of us have been moved by Judith Hammond's account of her experiences as an ecumenical accompanier in Palestine might be interested in the work being done by the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions. They, along with ICAHD UK and ICAHD USA, are working to rebuild every Palestinian home demolished by Israeli bulldozers.

They can be contacted at:

ICAHD UK, 24-32 Stephenson Way, London NW1 2HX

Tel: 020 7383 3893

website: www.icahduk.org

email: information@icahduk.org

Quick Crossword

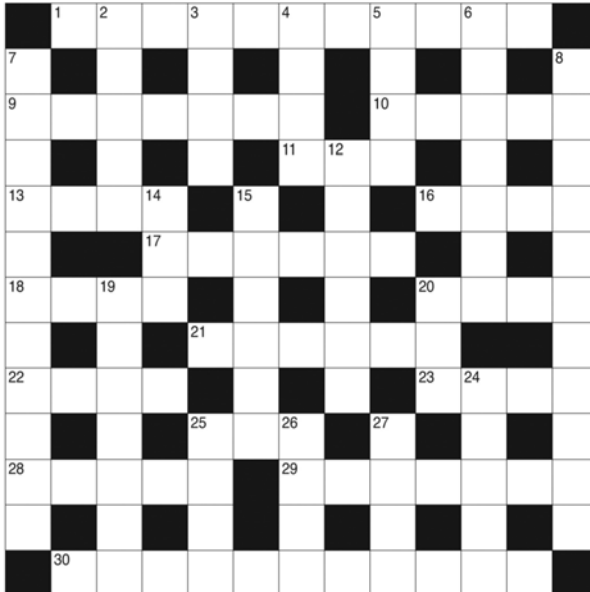
The Bible version is the NIV

Clues across

- 1 Criminals (1 Timothy 1:9) (11)
- 9 Disregard (Luke 11:42) (7)
- 10 'If we endure, we will also — with him' (2 Timothy 2:12) (5)
- 11 'Make them — down in groups of about fifty each' (Luke 9:14) (3)
- 13 Lazily (4)
- 16 He was killed by his brother Cain (Genesis 4:8) (4)
- 17 Consented (Acts 15:25) (6)
- 18 A bird the Israelites were forbidden to eat (Leviticus 11:13–15) (4)
- 20 'The water had risen and was deep enough to — in' (Ezekiel 47:5) (4)
- 21 Counsel (2 Samuel 17:11) (6)
- 22 He sold his birthright to his twin brother for some red stew (Genesis 25:30–33) (4)
- 23 Those who 'practise magic — ' are twice condemned in the closing chapters of the Bible (Revelation 21:8; 22:15) (4)
- 25 Gamble (3)
- 28 Shows wedding guests to their seats (5)
- 29 Uriah, Bathsheba's husband, was one (2 Samuel 11:3) (7)
- 30 'The statutes of the Lord are — , making wise the simple' (Psalm 19:7) (11)

Clues down

- 2 Gabriel was one (Luke 1:19) (5)
- 3 'That on the cross my burden gladly bearing, he — and died to take away my sin' (4)
- 4 'A man ought to examine himself before he — the bread and drinks the cup' (1 Corinthians 11:28) (4)
- 5 Twentieth-century US composer of more than 200 Christian songs, — Kaiser (4)
- 6 Sign in the sky of the covenant between God and the earth (Genesis 9:13) (7)
- 7 Sinful (2 Peter 2:9) (11)
- 8 Perfect (Hebrews 9:14) (11)
- 12 In rice (anag.) (6)
- 14 Tibetan ox (3)
- 15 22 Across had one against his brother for stealing from him his father's blessing (Genesis 27:41) (6)
- 19 'When evening comes, you say, "It will be fair — , for the sky is red"' (Matthew 16:2) (7)
- 20 'The — is his, for he made it, and his hands formed the dry land' (Psalm 95:5) (3)
- 24 First Director General of the BBC, Sir John — (5)
- 25 Male siblings (abbrev.) (4)
- 26 What (anag.) (4)
- 27 'Mockers — up a city, but wise men turn away anger' (Proverbs 29:8) (4)



Solutions on page 6.

Source: Parish Pump

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL - OFFICERS

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Joan Finch (Churchwarden & VC)
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PARISH NEWS

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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
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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
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	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.*