

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Bradford on Avon



PARISH NEWS

APRIL 2011

DIRECTORY

Priest in Charge The Revd Joanna Abecassis
18A Woolley Street 864444
email: joanna@abecassis.freemove.co.uk

Churchwardens

Joan Finch 40, Palairet Close, BoA 863878
Trevor Ford 25, Downavon, BoA 862240

Retired Clergy

The Ven John Burgess, Canon David Driscoll,
The Revd Alun Glyn-Jones, Canon Peter Hardman,
The Revd Jim Hill, The Right Revd Bill Ind,
The Revd Angela Onions, The Ven Ian Stanes,
The Revd Karl Wiggins, Canon Humphrey York.

Lay Ministers

Graham Dove (licensed) 868654
Dr Malcolm Walsh (retired)

Director of Music

Gareth Bennett 01380 728772

Times of Services *(Check Bulletins and notices or Church web site)*

Sundays	8am	Eucharist (Traditional language)
	9.30am	Sung Eucharist (coffee afterwards)
	6pm	Evensong, Compline, <i>etc</i>
Weekday Eucharist	10am	Wednesdays
	12 noon	Fridays (Traditional Language) with lunch out afterwards

Daily (apart from Tuesdays and Sundays)

Morning & Evening Prayer at 8.30am and 5.30pm (please enter via the north door, opposite the Saxon Church, and check Bulletin for any cancellations).

Times of Meetings

Choir Practice	6.30pm	Church, Tuesdays
Junior Church	9.30am	Church Hall (1 st and 2 nd Sundays in the month, September to July (except Easter)
Mothers' Union	7.30pm	Church Hall, (usually) 3 rd Thursday
Bell Practice	7.30-9pm	2 nd and 4 th Mondays

Holy Trinity Web-site www.brad-avon-ht.org.uk

Diocese Web-site www.salisbury.anglican.org.uk

Weekly Bulletin Notices to Trevor Ford not later than Wednesday for the following Sunday.

Please let the Priest in Charge, LLM or Churchwardens know if someone needs visiting at home or in hospital.

DIARY FOR APRIL



2 Saturday 1pm Marriage of Jonathan Gwilliam and Kirstie Geddes

3 SUNDAY MOTHERING SUNDAY

9.30am All-Age Eucharist with the Guides and the Brownies
6pm Compline

10 SUNDAY THE FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT

9.30am Sung Eucharist
11am Annual Parochial Church Meeting in the "Church" Hall
6pm Evensong *Christ Church*

11 Monday 2pm Marriage of Christian Meyer zu Natrup and Charlotte Old
14 Thursday 7.30pm Mothers' Union Meeting – "Church" Hall
16 Saturday 4pm Marriage of Graham Forrester and Charlotte Maurissen, St Mary, Tory Chapel

17 SUNDAY PALM SUNDAY

9.30am Sung Eucharist with Procession of Palms from the Saxon Church
11.30am Baptism of Maisie Sarah Cox
6pm Compline

18 Monday 7pm Holy Week Address with Compline
19 Tuesday 7pm Holy Week Address with Compline
20 Wednesday 7pm Holy Week Address with Compline

21 MAUNDY THURSDAY

8pm The Liturgy of Maundy Thursday with Watch until Midnight

22 GOOD FRIDAY

23 11am *BACT Follow the Cross to Christ Church Westbury Gardens*
2pm The Liturgy of Good Friday with Junior Church Workshop in the "Church" Hall

24 SUNDAY EASTER DAY

10am Sung Eucharist
6pm Festival Choral Evensong

WEEKLY GROUPS

Monday 7pm 'Faith Explored' (for venue: please ring 868654)
(fortnightly)
Tuesday 10.30am mainly music
(a group for young children – school terms only)
Thursday 11am 'Faith Explored' (not 7 or 21 April) Vicarage, 18A, Woolley Street

Parish News copy date for May is 17th April

New Life!

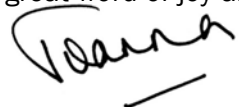
The sky is blue — the sun is shining , the blossom is bursting forth, as are the daffodils in the churchyard — and I have just celebrated our first marriage of the year. God is good! We have lots of marriages booked this year, including one in April at the St Mary Tory Chapel, and that is very much about celebrating new life: not only the new life in the practical sense to which the couples are committed and are looking forward, but in the spiritual sense of resurrection — of 'water' being turned into 'wine' — as their new lives together are blessed and transformed by the Holy Spirit. What's more I have been asked by Bishop Graham to attend a two-day conference this month which is organised by 'The Weddings Project': a national initiative to encourage church weddings. Being situated in such an incredibly beautiful town, with our three ancient places of worship, we have a fantastic mission opportunity here (though I am sure I shall be glad when Philip has been ordained priest and will be able to help!).

I am hoping that we shall soon have regular pages of news both from St Laurence School and the PCC — but in the meantime you will have to make do with me! St Laurence is moving into exciting waters following a governor vote on 16th March to proceed with an application for Academy Status: negotiations continue with the Diocesan Board of Education to ensure that the 'christian ethos' is preserved. Heather and I (your Foundation Governors) do our best too! The PCC receives regular reports on St Laurence, along with Fitzmaurice, the Children's Centre, the Chamber of Commerce, BACT etc. under the heading of 'Mission and the Community'. It also discusses worship at each meeting – and we have just decided to celebrate this year of the 400th anniversary of the King James Bible by using it at our traditional evening services of Compline and Evensong this year, and also to make a feature of it on Bible Sunday (23rd October). We shall also be celebrating 'Back to Church Sunday' at Harvest Festival on 25th September, in the company of The Trowbridge and District Youth Band!

But first. we have the 'new life' (we hope!) of Mothering Sunday on 3rd April, and then our great annual opportunity as a church family to gather and discuss, and to vote in new officers, on 10th April. The APCM will be held as usual in the 'Church' Hall at 11am – so do come along, and more will be revealed of how we see the way ahead..

But I end, as the month will end, with our journey through Holy Week with the bewildered and betrayed Christ – the stillness and starkness of Holy Saturday – and then the JOY of the NEW LIFE of the RESURRECTION on Easter Day when we shall shout from the rooftops that great word of joy and praise which we have denied ourselves in Lent!

With my love and prayers,



The Diocesan Council on Ash Wednesday had been a bit of a surprise. Instead of having a meeting format, when we got back from the service in Church we found we were all split up on to different tables, with a Trustee leading each group. We were asked questions on what the Mothers' Union means to us, how it helps us to grow spiritually, how we see it as helping the community around us, and how we view the way the MU spends its money. We were encouraged to speak, giving our thoughts and listening to others. We all came away with something to take home and think about. I had to distribute notices to everyone at the next meeting to try and put all this into words. It's no good our just going to a meeting each month; we need to know what is happening in the wider MU and use it to help us in our work in Bradford on Avon and the wider community. Our support for the Women's Refuge in Trowbridge continues; it's not just for Christmas. A new washing-up bowl was filled to overflowing with items for the kitchen, toilet, bathroom, etc, plus a gift of money from one member, who doesn't shop. I took it to the Refuge after our meeting and they were delighted with the contents and the thoughts behind it. We shall continue with this worthwhile project.

We were quite a few members down for the March meeting, several being ill and several away. But what we lacked in numbers, we made up for in warmth. Sue Hunt, who had come from Wiltshire Farm Foods, was

delighted to hear us talking about 'Mothering Sunday', and not 'Mother's Day', as she is a churchgoer herself. She had to bring in several trolleys full of equipment and set it up while we had the prayers from Pat and the notices. We turned round to see her presentation of a slide show, and were astonished at the awards that WFF has won. Their Head Chef, Phil, won the Development Chef of the year award last year and joined the illustrious company of Marco Pierre White and several others we all recognised. They also recently won the National Business award for Customer Focus. She went on to tell us that the firm is now providing food all over the UK, even in the Scottish Isles, to hospitals and care homes, as well as to private individuals. The same driver always goes out to the latter, and builds up a relationship with them, as shown in the TV adverts.

All the time she was talking, food was heating up. We were each given a catalogue of their products, and after tasting four main meals and some desserts we realised that they were, indeed, very tasty. Frozen when they arrive (the driver will even put them in your freezer) they will cook straight from the freezer in a microwave oven. An ideal thing to have, just in case you need a meal in a hurry. And they have a year's use-by date on them.

How the members then managed to put away cakes and biscuits provided by Joy, Evelyn and Ivy I do not know. I was too aware of having lost 3lbs, and not wanting to put any of it back on again!

Next month we welcome Canon Richard Askew, who is coming to help

us prepare for Holy Week and Easter. Do come and join us!

Playing skittles at the Dog & Fox (see page 22) proved to be an enlightening evening. I was sitting with a lady who used to be my assistant in Guides. Being in the choir, I very rarely sit with her now, and we had a lot of fun reminiscing. She told me that on one occasion in camp she had gone to clean her teeth last thing at night and,



told the guiders in the tent, when she returned to it?

not having lights in our lats (toilets), she had taken from her toilet bag a tube of toothpaste, or so she thought. Cleaning her teeth had produced a terrible taste and she found, when she could see again, that she had used a tube of Hair Removing Cream! I wonder why she never

Chris Hodge

Liz Netley

As most of you will know, Liz had many interests, including needlework of various types. I have been left with a large stock of wool, silks, cottons *etc., etc.* There are also a number of unfinished embroidery projects, together with sewing 'frames' and other useful equipment. On top of that, there are drawers-full of various art materials. There is no way that I am going to use these and I am loath just to dump them or to leave them mouldering in the cupboards and drawers. If anybody is interested in having a look to see if there is something they could use or just like to have, please ring me on 866121.

Brian Netley.

PS. I have received a letter stating that the total collected in Liz's memory was £1,137.

● FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

Leo Matthew Whitehead 27th March
 Neave Lissa Whitehead 27th March
 Shannon Tiffany Weissenbruch 27th March

Funerals

Elsie Whiting 2nd March
 Rita Dobson 2nd March
 Mac Humble 24th March

Marriages

Richard Eddy & Sonya Collier 19th March

Junior Church News

Better late than never! On February 27th we had our belated Junior Church Party. As the children arrived they gathered around two tables. On one table there were card, scissors, glue and streamers so that they could make their own party hats. They enjoyed this and



the results were most impressive, as you can see in the pictures. On the other table the children iced cakes for sharing at the party along with lots of other food. We said grace and then sat down for



the tea, adults as well as children (so civilized). After eating we played some party games. The time just flew by and we all had a wonderful time, although I think we wore Muriel out!! (she didn't go to Evensong that night).

*Junior Church Team
Photos by Alison Cook*

The Junior Church calendar for the whole year can be found on the church web site at <http://www.brad-avon-ht.org.uk/juniorchurch.html>



A group for parents and caregivers to enjoy with their children

If you peeped into our lovely Church on Tuesday mornings you would see and

hear a happy group of mums, carers, (and some dads and grandparents too) with their little children under school age. They have come to enjoy *mainly music*, which has now become a popular and much loved group, providing friendship and fun for the children whilst developing early skills through music, rhyme and rhythm.

mainly music originates from New Zealand, where it is widespread and popular. After hearing all about it last autumn, then visiting a Church group in Bristol, where it was great to see a very successful group in action, and to see how much everyone enjoyed it, we were very encouraged. So after a lot of planning and support, and with much gratitude to the enthusiastic team, it was set up in the children's corner at Holy Trinity.

The morning starts with half an hour of musical activity and song. The action songs are a great 'warm up' and it's surprising how quickly the little children have learnt the

actions. They love the 'instruments' and finding the 'beat' in the delightful songs. This is followed by refreshments and a quiet time for the children, who sit on a colourful rug and are served with drinks and a selection of fresh fruits.



Then it is playtime, with various appropriate toys and books, while their mums and carers

are 'spoilt' and can have a 'get-to-know-each-other time', when coffee, tea and home-made cakes are served to them.

It's great when the mums tell us how much they appreciate this 'special' time together, whilst they make new friends and share their 'baby' news with each other.

We were glad, recently, to welcome Joanna and Archdeacon John Wraw who took a great interest in us all, joining in the singing and



musical activity, chatting and enjoying the morning with us. You can see a selection of photographs of the visit on the display board.

At the moment there is a waiting list for registration to the group as we are limited in numbers because of space. But it is so good to be able to use our church for this purpose, which the mums, carers and children have come to love and appreciate, especially when they realise it is their family church, too, and it is a special joy now also to welcome them to our Sunday services.

Celia Milne
Photos David Milne

Food bank notice

Our next monthly collection will take place in church on Sunday 3rd April.
Margaret and Bryan



"It's the only way we can cope with all the couples who want to get married on the same day as William and Kate."

Crossword solutions

Across

8, Transgressors. 9, Out. 10, Ephesians. 11, Throb. 13, Ramadan. 16, Nearest. 19, Neath. 22, Childless. 24, Ant. 25, Excommunicate.

Down

1, Utmost. 2, Easter. 3, Assemble. 4, Archer. 5, Isis. 6, To hand. 7, As a son. 12, Hoe. 14, Monastic. 15, Apt. 16, Nuclei. 17, A piece. 18, Tied up. 20, Ararat. 21, Hatred. 23, Dome.

O, TO BE IN ENGLAND!

The weather is warmer, trees are in blossom, and “the lowest boughs and the brushwood sheaf/Round the elm-tree bole are in tiny leaf.” April’s here! And it won’t be long until the Street Market — which takes place on Saturday, July 2nd — will be here too. It’s our major fundraising event and we could use all hands on deck, before, during and after.

The person to talk to about site issues and non-Church stalls, including any interested ‘young entrepreneurs’ who will receive a special rate, is John Cox (01225-864270). The person to talk to about helping with Church stalls is Colin Johnston (01225-868132). There are nine of these, all stocked by generous donations from parishioners and friends. They are Quality Bric-à-brac & Collectables; Books; Saxon Club Unused Gifts; Mothers’ Union Pantry (preserves and cakes); Bottle Tombola; Plants & Gardens; Children’s Toys; the Grand Prize Draw and, of course, the Teas and Refreshments stall which feeds and waters visitors all day and raises the lion’s share. They would love to have extra help on the day, so please contact Joan Finch (01225-863878) if you can offer some.



The MU Pantry, 2010 Street Market

Refreshments stall which feeds and waters visitors all day and raises the lion’s share. They would love to have extra help on the day, so please contact Joan Finch (01225-863878) if you can offer some.



Kathryn and Anthony ready for business on the Raffle stall, 2010

We also need someone (maybe a couple, or two?) to take over the Grand Prize Draw, requesting prizes and selling tickets on the day. Kathryn and Anthony Swift, who have run it so well for several years, are moving to the Bottle Tombola. Do you know a local trader or philanthropist who might be persuaded to donate a

Grand Prize? The new team will be enormously appreciative for leads. Please approach them personally, or talk to Colin.

As you spring clean this April, please remember Holy Trinity. Whilst we need plenty of goods to sell, we are after **good quality** items that have some re-sale potential, so please be selective. We don’t want everything in your garden shed! Remember to mark July 2nd on your calendar and keep that date free, to help or to attend. Thank you for all you do to make the Street Market a success!

John Cox, Colin Johnston, Jackie Easby

WEST WILTS INTERFAITH MEETING: IVY HOUSE, WARMINSTER, 21ST FEB 2011

Twenty five people arrived at Ivy House on Monday night for a light supper of delicious home-made soup with rolls and fruit followed by tea or coffee. Our facilitator for the evening was Wanda Nash. Married to an Anglican priest for many years and having trained as a nurse but then going on to develop many other skills, her great passion now is to lead silent prayer in the contemplative tradition. Her first popular book was ***People need silence*** while her most recent publication is ***Silence as Meeting Place***. She spoke very movingly of an interfaith gathering at St Martin in the Fields last year and read several wonderful quotes from that gathering. From across the whole gamut of the world's faiths they gathered to declare that God is One.

Each person introduced themselves with stories of how they came to want to explore a wider perspective than just their own faith. Wanda continued with her talk by noting how we use breath. She suggested that breathing that is short and high in the body around the uncovered head is connected to the busy mind brain. Breathing in the chest is connected to the heart and the emotional centre. But the most relaxed breath comes from the lower stomach when we feel just the rise and fall of the abdominal wall. In our guts where food delivers its goodness to the blood stream, where waste is channelled away from the body, where our instincts lie, there we find the most soft breath.

After a chance to move and find a space where we felt most comfortable we settled to experience the stillness and the silence which connects us all. A Jewish person read from the Torah and then we went into silence. Wanda read from the Christian gospel, and we went into silence. A Muslim read from the Koran, and again we went into silence. Each reading confirmed the experience we had in our different ways expressed. God is One, we are all loved and can love, whatever our path. It may be that we shall meet again for a similar gathering. I would commend it to everyone.

Judith Holland

Hope is faith holding out its hand in the dark.

Supplied by Jean Maitland

DIOCESAN SYNOD, CORFE MULLEN, Feb 5th, 2011

A Brief and unofficial report

Synod opened with a service of the Word and a presidential address by Bishop Christopher Herbert who has oversight of the Diocese until a new Bishop of Salisbury is appointed. The full address and the minutes of the Synod, together with the Cathedral report given by the Dean, can be read on the Diocesan website www.salisbury.anglican.org.

Bishop Christopher spoke of the interruption to his retirement (from St Albans in 2009) and the very real warmth and support he had received from Salisbury. He carries a mental map of the Diocese which is rather vague at the Wiltshire end but was getting clearer. Maps, he told us, are constantly being revised. He also made the connection between trade and the spread of Christianity, something particularly applicable to our part of the world.

Maps were an apt metaphor for the main business of the morning which was concerned with the very real problem of the diminishing number of stipendiary Priests and the large burden of Priests who have many parishes in their care. A questionnaire exploring clergy well-being had been circulated in 2008 and some thirty clergy had discussed the problems of coping with multi-parish benefices and the increasing sense of separation between their call to the ministry and what they actually found

themselves doing. A working party had visited Evreux last October and had examined how that Diocese had responded to a similar situation, something not to be copied but which provides a potential vision. Synod was asked to discuss a paper on 'Making Church in Today's World', new patterns of sustainable ministry for the Diocese of Salisbury, and to approve a motion supporting the continuing development of lay-energised local ministry patterns through a proposed pilot scheme. Also that the benefices participating in this pilot be supported and mentored by a half-time post appointed expressly for this purpose. These proposals will be discussed at a future Deanery Synod and I hope the relevant papers will be available shortly on the wonderful new diocesan website. Suffice it to say that a life together, beyond territories, with the right priorities and a shared ministry, ordained and lay collaborative leaderships, with an emphasis on Lay Ministry, and a needs-led local model that enfranchises the laity is the vision.

The Revd John Cowburn, Diocesan Chaplain to the Deaf, described the development of 'Deaf Church' across the diocese which addresses the pastoral, spiritual and welfare needs of the deaf community. He reminded Synod of the need to ensure that the Deaf were catered for at weddings,

baptisms and funerals; sign-language interpreters are available if required. Sign Language is very ecumenical and the session finished with a demonstration of The Grace. John lives at West Lavington and is available for consultation and talks. It was also suggested that a deaf person should check the volume of the sound loop in your church.

At this point it was announced that the boiler had gone into 'holiday mode', and was not going to keep us warm, so the Dean's opening remarks in her Cathedral Report 'Life in a Cold Climate' were greeted with some laughter. The report covered the life of the cathedral over the past year; services, concerts, education and repairs. Much has been accomplished despite the £600,000 deficit (which has resulted in some painful decisions and will be no charge on the Diocese), and the cathedral hopes to break even this year.

The Anglican Communion Covenant seeks to unify Anglicans around the world and emphasises the need for dialogue, collaboration and accountability, directly addressing issues of church division. Synod was asked to approve the draft Act of (General) Synod adopting the Covenant. Bishop Graham had issued a paper suggesting that the matter not be referred down to Deanery Synods. Unfortunately a whole page of this paper was originally omitted and was circulated by email only two days before Synod. This page contained the suggestion that the matter not be referred to

Deaneries following Bishop Graham's reasoning that 1) Deaneries were too busy debating Women in the Episcopate; and 2) he also wished to avoid having to debate the matter at the June 2011 Diocesan Synod as this date is mostly reserved for its debate on Women in the Episcopate. His proposal was that 'This Synod approves the proposed process for a debate and vote on the Anglican Communion Covenant'. There followed an extremely animated debate with delegate after delegate taking exception to the apparent suggestion that Deaneries could not debate two important matters at the same time. Christopher Fielden proposed an amendment to the proposal, effectively overturning Bishop Graham's original suggestion, which was passed by 41 votes to 39. Deaneries will therefore have to make time to debate the motion from General Synod and return the results to the Diocesan Secretary by January 25th 2012. Diocesan Synod will have the second debate on the issue followed by the vote in February 2012.

DAC awards were presented to three excellent re-orderings at Chickerell, St Katherine Savernake and Erlestoke. I am told that the new facilities at Erlestoke are excellent - not just toilet and kitchen, but a new car park and a thorough re-ordering to fit the church as a Village Centre as well as a place of worship.

*Anne Willis
(with a little assistance from
Roy Brown)*

SAINT ETHELBURGA'S CENTRE FOR RECONCILIATION AND PEACE

If you were walking from Liverpool Street Station along Bishopsgate towards London Bridge, you might well come across a rather interesting looking church that is dwarfed by the buildings around it. This used to be the smallest of the City Churches, St Ethelburga's, one that goes back to about 1400. The building survived both the Great Fire in 1666 and the blitz but was reduced to a ruin as a result of the IRA bombing in the City in 1993.

60% of this Grade I listed building was destroyed. What was worse, the church's insurance had lapsed just three weeks before the bombing took place! Undaunted, the new Bishop of London, Richard Chartres, decided to go ahead with the restoration of the church and a charitable trust was set up in 1997 with the task of bringing it to fruition. Bishop Richard had a vision of a church that was primarily a centre for reconciliation and peace. His vision was to provide a meeting place for people of all faiths who wished to explore the religious dimensions of conflict and to go on to find ways of

resolving conflict. After much hard work the new centre, St Ethelburga's, was opened in 2002.

In addition to the restoration of the church, a Bedouin tent was constructed within a garden that lay behind the church building. 'The Tent' was modelled on the kinds of tent that would have existed in Andalusia in Southern Spain during medieval times when Muslims, Jews and Christians were able to live together in harmony for some 300

years. The idea was that people from different faiths could come together on neutral territory which would make it easier to share openly with each other and hopefully engage at a deep level. There are no obvious religious symbols in the tent, but each window carries the word 'peace' in one of the seven primary language traditions, together with beautiful universal symbols of



St Ethelburga's in 1993...

reconciliation (sun and moon) and growth (seed, tree, fruit). I attended a number of meetings in the tent when a group of us put together a response from the faith communities



... and in 2003

to the economic crisis. This response was eventually put on the website prepared for the G20 Summit held in London in 2009. I can certainly testify that the tent is one of the most relaxing places I have ever experienced for meetings and it was very appropriate that people were requested to take off their shoes before entering.

The Centre runs weekly events of meditation, a Eucharist as used by the Iona Community, and an interfaith choir meets to sing music from different parts of the world. There are lots of special events taking place throughout the year including interfaith dialogue, concerts, discussions, and courses like 'understanding Islam'. A wide range of organisations and ethnic groups also regularly use the Centre – for example, a 'scriptural reasoning group' where people from different faiths share their religious books with one another.

Do have a look at their website (www.stethelburgas.org) to get a real flavour of the things they do. It is a very active centre although people can usually find a space for quiet meditation. Visitors are especially welcome from 11am – 3pm every Friday and at other times by prior arrangement (020 7496 1611). So if you are ever in London with time to kill, why not pay St Ethelburga's a visit?

David Driscoll

Parish Holiday in 2013

Because the cost of holidays has risen so much, the next one, apart from the ones to France, will be in Spring 2013, giving people a chance to save up! I did try and put together a week centred around Bruges, but the cost of a coach, alone for a week was £4,200, so that was out and I've gone back to McCabe. There was a choice of Israel or Greece, but so far, most people want a trip to Israel. It is a very comprehensive holiday, with a chance of an optional visit to Masada, which should be fascinating. If anyone is interested in finding out more about this, please contact me on 866220.

Chris Hodge

'INCARNATIONAL MUD' – IN PALESTINE

After listening to Joanna's sermon on what her friend describes as 'incarnational mud', finding Christ in the dark places of the earth, I went on to read a review of a book by a Gazan doctor, Izzeldin Abuelaish. His attitude to his work and to the trials and tribulations of daily life in Gaza seem to epitomize her message. The book is called *I Shall Not Hate: A Gaza Doctor's Journey on the Road to Peace and Human Dignity*.



He describes his present experiences as “a good chapter in a bad story” as he tries to find something positive in everything. His life story is an impressive statement of triumph over adversity and optimism in the midst of terrible misfortune.

Abuelaish is a gynaecologist and infertility specialist who studied medicine in Cairo and gained further qualifications in London and Harvard. But it was back in Gaza, on 16th January 2009, at the height of the Israeli assault, that three of his young daughters were killed by Israeli shells fired directly into their bedroom. The killings were particularly shocking because they were so deliberate and because Abuelaish was well known to the Israelis. Exceptionally for a Palestinian from Gaza, he had been taken on at two Israeli hospitals, where he had made Israeli friends and during the Gaza war he had become a public figure with his eye-witness reports for Israeli TV.

His fame increased when, after his daughters' deaths, he publicly refused to let their killing provoke him to hatred or revenge. Instead, he preached understanding and co-existence, arguing that these would be more powerful weapons than counter-violence and bloodshed.

Dr Abuelaish was born in Jabalia refugee camp. His account of life under siege and privation is a rare example of work coming directly out of Gaza. Some of us may recently have watched the excellent television docu-drama 'The Promise' and glimpsed how difficult it is for Gazans to survive their predicament and preserve a sense of sanity and humanity. The good doctor does both.

Margaret Harris

Those who say they will forgive but can't forget, simply bury the hatchet but leave the handle out for immediate use. *D L Moody*

The swallowing of pride seldom leads to indigestion. *Anon*

INSPIRATION AND HOPE FROM CHRISTIAN AID



John Bell is a much loved presenter of *Thought for the Day*. A member of the Iona community he is also a composer, a skilled music and singing troubadour, clearly an inveterate magpie with music and words gathered from all over this amazing planet. Those of us who went to the Christian Aid gathering in Bath on Wednesday 2nd March were treated to John's skilled leading of worship. He playfully used two Bible readings as a base for his talk. His observation was that 'men and barns' were often a bit of a problem! The first was the account of Joseph wisely and intuitively filling barns full, somehow anticipating the lean famine years when the stored barns would be slowly shared out to feed the nation and beyond. The second was the 'barn man' of the parable in Luke's Gospel. In knocking down his small barns and constructing bigger ones to store his vast harvest he thought he was secure, yet that night his life was demanded by God. With a smile in his voice John suggested today's 'barn men' might be the bankers! Where does true wealth lie? He reminded us that it is never in the centres of organisations that new growth occurs. Among the people on the edges, in the wilderness, where the spirit moves us, there we grow. And there we are moved with compassion for humanity. Our last song was based on some words of the martyred Archbishop Oscar Romero of El Salvador. He was a much loved gentle pastor of the poor and disenfranchised, a strong hope for justice and peace in a very divided country at a time of great

violence. I remember being at Christian Aid when we had news of his death in his cathedral. So many of my colleagues knew and loved him and the following days and weeks were filled with sadness.

In Jesus our Saviour we clearly see
The Church must be keen to forgo
Its comfort and privilege and self-esteem
Till Christ's is the lifestyle we show

The second half of the evening was a glorious report from Christian Aid organisers. One had been to visit projects in Bangladesh and been inspired by the partners she met. Another organiser had begun to campaign as a result of seeing the links between so many of the issues facing the planet. He had got the tee shirt AND a scarf! The Bath organiser spoke of many years of service with the red envelopes and the finale was an organiser from Purton, a village of 4,000 in North Wiltshire. 'We only do things which are fun' was their motto and she had us all filled with laughter as she regaled us with tales of how they clearly set their village alight during one week in May with every kind of fund-raising imaginable. 'Ironically for an organisation which campaigns for the hungry a lot of cooking and eating takes place!' Bacon butties had been served in church one year between the 8am and the 10.30am services. It sounded as though that had been a huge scramble! And among all the fun and arranging and celebration 'we still have time for the pesky red envelopes'. Those pesky red envelopes

will be dropped in our letter boxes in the week before Christian Aid Week, May 15th-21st, ready for us to deliver. There are several collectors in our congregation and if you feel you can't

do it on your own come with us as we call on our neighbours to help the poor.

Judith Holland

APRIL

Sources as diverse as Brewer's *Dictionary of Phrase and Fable* and Wikipedia on the internet agree that the origin of the name of this month is obscure, although both affirm that it is most likely derived from the Latin *aprire*, to open; the month '*when trees unfold and the womb of nature opens with new life*'.

April is also often described as a month of contrasts. TS Eliot begins his epic poem *The Waste Land* with the words '*April is the cruellest month, bringing forth lilacs from the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain*', an evocation of Chaucer: '*Whan that Aprille with his shoures soote, The droghte of Marche hath perced to the roote...*'. Eliot takes Chaucer's introductory line from the prologue to *The Canterbury Tales*, which is optimistic about April and the regenerative, life-giving season of spring, and turns it on its head in his poem which contains various references to the birth/death/rebirth cycle in mythology, including the story of the Fisher King from the Grail legend, and the death and miraculous rebirth of the Egyptian god Osiris. It is a theme which also appears elsewhere in Eliot's poetry. In *East Coker*, the second of the *Four Quartets*, he takes the motto of Mary Queen of Scots — *In my end is my beginning* — symbolising the eternity of life after death and perhaps inspired by the emblem of her grandfather-in-law, François I of France, the salamander, which self-ignites at the end of its life, and then rises up from the ashes re-born, and he reverses that to begin his poem — *In my beginning is my end...* — returning to the original only in the poem's final line.

Why Eliot thought April the cruellest month is no doubt the stuff of doctoral theses. But apart from its being the month of uncertain weather and the month when we pay our taxes, we do have the tradition of April Fools Day, sometimes linked with the mockery of the trial of Jesus. But since a similar tradition exists in countries with other religions this seems unlikely and the more usual explanation is linked to the confusion associated with the change in the calendar from the Julian, when the New Year was celebrated from March 25th to April 1st, to the Gregorian, which begins on January 1st.

The Anglo-Saxons called April 'Oster-monath' or 'Eostur-monath', the root of the word Easter according to Bede. He speculated that the month was named after the goddess Eostre whose feast was in that month, although he may have confused her with the classical dawn goddesses Eos and Aurora, whose names mean 'shining in the east'. So Easter might have meant simply 'beginning month' – a good time for starting up again after a long winter. But for us the Christian festival of Easter, the greatest festival in our ecclesiastical calendar, is firmly associated with death and rebirth — the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ. *In my end is my beginning.*

Bryan Harris

Why does the date for Easter move about so?

When is Easter in any given year? Easy — find the first Sunday after the full moon that follows the Spring Equinox (March 20th or 21st). If it sounds a bit confusing, well, here's the history behind it...

It all began with the ancient Hebrews. They based their calendars upon the rhythms of the moon. These lunar calendars worked well for them, and everything was fine. Then Christianity arrived in the Holy Land, where the first-century Jews were still using the lunar calendar. Fine. But then Christianity moved on to Rome, which was using a different calendar, one based upon the sun. The Gregorian calendar, which we use today, and which is in widest use throughout the world, is based on the Roman sun calendar.

Now establishing certain days in the year became difficult. Especially Easter. The results were often confusing. Early church leaders, both Jewish and Roman, agreed that everything to do with the coming of Jesus Christ had been prepared, even the position of the sun, the moon and the stars. They could not agree, however, on how to fix the day for the yearly celebration of Easter.

It was not until the fourth century, with the help of astronomers who took into account the position of both the moon and the sun in relation to the earth, that a decision was finally made. At last it was accepted that Easter would always be celebrated on the first Sunday after the full moon that follows the Spring Equinox (March 20th or 21st). That is why Easter falls anytime between 22nd March and 25th April!

Count your blessings

Count your blessings instead of your crosses.

Count your gains instead of your losses.

Count your joys instead of your woes.

Count your friends instead of your foes.

Count your smiles instead of your tears.

Count your courage instead of your fears.

Count your full years instead of your lean.

Count your kind deeds instead of your mean.

Count your health instead of your wealth.

Count on God instead of yourself.

Anon

Ears

Why do they have ear piercing 'while you wait'? Is there some other shop where you can drop them off and pick them up later?

BRADFORD ON AVON CREDIT UNION

We are now in our third year and continue to operate from what was formerly known as 'Trinity Church Hall' in Church Street, Bradford on Avon, on a Thursday morning from 10.30am to 12noon. We are grateful for the backing of the Parochial Church Council and support from the Masons and congregation so that, with the change of ownership of the hall, we have carried on in the same manner.

A Credit Union is a 'People's Bank', a true community project which needs savers as well as borrowers and:-

- is a local co-operative community-based savings and loan scheme
- is a confidential service that helps in saving and borrowing responsibly at a low rate of interest
- is helpful in getting finances under control
- meets the needs of those who want to save or borrow small amounts
- is owned & operated by its members
- gives members the opportunity to have their say as to how the CU conducts and develops its business
- has trained volunteers at each collection point
- has a management board of dedicated directors who meet monthly.

The West Wilts Credit Union, of which Bradford on Avon is a part, is working with other Credit Unions in Wiltshire to harmonise policies and has taken over the loan book of Wiltshire Moneyline. Before a loan is granted, applicants are interviewed to ensure that they are in a position to repay the loan. Some people may not have many choices when there is a need to borrow so please let them know about us so that they will not turn to high interest door step lenders or loan sharks.

There is a very flexible savings scheme:-

- saving as much as you can when you can
- payment can be made at the collection point, by standing order or by payroll deductions
- all monies are insured and protected by a compensation scheme
- savings can be withdrawn very easily and quickly
- any profit made for local people and not outside shareholders.

Do come and see us — Anne Carter, Margaret Harkcom, Evelyn Humphrey and me — on a Thursday morning. If you would like some information and Thursday mornings are not convenient, we can make other arrangements to see you. We do chat & coffee as well!

Marlene Haffenden, Director

SKITTLED OUT!

March 10th. On the television, Liverpool being beaten by Braga in the Europa Cup. But at the *Dog and Fox* nobody cares because it is the annual Friends skittles evening. 31 people turned up to demonstrate their bowling skills (or lack of them) and share a Ploughman's supper and lots of chat.



Captain Viv shows the way.

Teams were (apparently) randomly selected by Mike and Jenny Fuller, and it was the dreaded *Them* team, captained by Viv Norfolk, versus the less fancied *Us* team led by Gill Winfield. The difficulty of having 31 players was neatly solved by putting Alice Moody on both teams. Alice showed no sign of partiality, naturally.



George critically appraising Junior Church style.

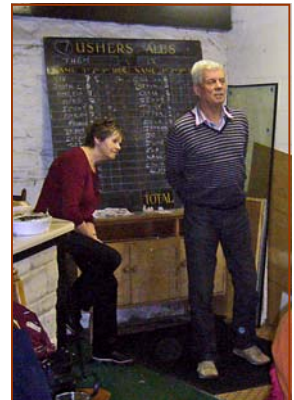


We don't believe it! Alice strikes again.

Needless to say the *Them* team carried the day, winning by a substantial margin, encouraged by a prize-winning performance and highest overall score from Captain Viv. A goodly selection of raffle prizes were distributed so as to ensure that there were good things to eat and drink, Lent notwithstanding. Someone did try to convince us that Lent actually started on the following Sunday rather than on Ash Wednesday, but we weren't convinced!

We made £69 profit including £25 from the raffle. Our grateful thanks to those who donated prizes.

And many thanks, too, to Angela for organizing the event.



The scorers look on

Bryan Harris

FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY

Church Quiz

Saturday 7th May, 7.00 for 7.30pm, United
Church Hall.

*£8.00 per head including ploughman's
supper and drinks.*



The following have agreed to provide teams for our Church Quiz in May:-

Group	Contact	Telephone
Churchwardens	Jeremy Lavis	863600
Friends	John Cox	864270
Guides	Judith Holland	866215
Junior Church	Alison Cook	864116
Mother's Union	Chris Hodge	866220
Saxon Club	Angela Onions	309001
Servers	Mary Ford	862240
Sidespersons	Joan Finch	863878

The following are hoping to provide teams :-

Bellringers	Anne Willis	865865
Choir	Gareth Bennett	01380 728772
Church Stewards	David Milne	864341
Flower Arrangers	Jonquil Burgess	868905
PCC	Graham Dove	868654
Retired Clergy	??	

If you would like to take part, please contact any of the above. If you feel you do not fit into any of the above groups, please feel free to form your own team. Husbands, wives, boyfriends and girlfriends can all be team members.

If interested, please let Mike Fuller (864122) or John Cox (864270) know as soon as possible so that plans can be finalised.

Many thanks

Mike Fuller, Secretary

Woman and a Fork

There was a young woman who had been diagnosed with a terminal illness and had been given three months to live. When she was getting her things 'in order,' she rang her priest and asked him to come and discuss her final wishes. She told him which hymns and readings she wanted at the service and what clothes she wanted to be buried in. The priest was preparing to leave when the woman remembered something very important to her.

"There is one more thing" she said. "And what's that?" said the priest. "This is very important." she continued. "I want to be buried with a fork in my right hand." The priest didn't know quite what to say. "Does that surprise you?" the young woman asked. "Well, to be honest, I am puzzled by the request." replied the priest.

The woman explained. "My grandmother once told me this story, and I have tried to pass on its message to those I love and those who are in need of encouragement. In all my years of attending social events and dinners, I always remember that when the plates of the main course were being cleared away, someone would lean over and say, "Keep your fork." It was my favourite part because I knew that something better was coming — like chocolate cake or apple pie. Something wonderful, and with substance!" So, I want people to see

me there in that coffin with a fork in my hand and I want them to wonder "What's the fork for?" Then I want you to tell them: "Keep your fork — the best is yet to come."

The priest's eyes filled with tears as he hugged the woman good-bye. He knew that this may be the last time he would see her before her death, but he also knew that she had a better grasp of what heaven would be like than he and many people twice her age, with twice as much experience and knowledge. She KNEW that something better was coming.

At the funeral people walked past the coffin and saw the dress she was wearing and the fork in her right hand. Again and again, the priest heard the question, "What's the fork for?" and each time he smiled.

During his eulogy, the priest told the people of the conversation he had had with the young woman before she died and about the symbolism of the fork. He told the people how he couldn't stop thinking about the fork and told them that they probably wouldn't be able to stop thinking about it either. He was right. So the next time you reach down for your fork let it remind you, ever so gently, that the best is yet to come.

And just remember...keep your fork!

Supplied by Margaret Purves

WILTSHIRE BUTTERFLIES, MARCH 2011

Since my last report we have had several warm, sunny days (although accompanied by an irritating cool, light, NE breeze at times) and the hibernators have begun to emerge. Sightings of more Red Admirals in February at Warminster, Marlborough, Compton Bassett and Bratton and on 7th March at Chittoe, bring the total to nine reported so far this year – incredible after such a long, cold winter for a species that until recently was not considered to be a true hibernator.

In Bradford on Avon, the first Comma was reported from a Winsley Road garden on 8th March and on the 12th a Peacock was seen in Trowbridge Road and a Brimstone in Newtown. Brimstones, Small Tortoiseshells and Commas have since been reported from across the county but strangely, only one or two Peacocks.



Yellow brimstone butterfly.

Photo Fleet Pond Nature Reserve, Hants.

I saw my first butterflies — a pair of Small Tortoiseshells — on 14th March in Trowbridge and on the same day, during a 30-minute walk in Picket Wood near Heywood, I counted 16 Commas but nothing else. On 17th I saw the first Small White of the year in Trowbridge, freshly emerged from its overwintered chrysalis. Visiting Picket Wood again on the 19th in glorious weather produced 5 Brimstones, 7 Peacocks and an amazing 24 Commas.

Apparently the very rare Large Tortoiseshell has been seen on the Isle of Wight and a few Painted Ladies have been reported from the south coast. Both species probably arriving from France on the recent southerly winds.

Details of any butterfly (and moth) sightings will always be very welcome. A further reminder that the 60-page 2010 Butterfly Report, giving details of all the county's 45 species will be available in April. If anyone would like a copy at £4.50, please let me know.

*©Mike Fuller
Wiltshire Butterfly Recorder*

Praying for wheels

A boy kept praying for a bicycle, and the priest told him to persevere, as prayer could do anything. Later he saw the boy with a bike, and said that this confirmed his belief that prayer could do anything.

The boy replied, "I stole the bike and now I'm praying for forgiveness".

for prayer in april

We pray for:

- ◆ The Bradford Rainbows, Brownies and Guides & Beavers, Cubs and Scouts
- ◆ The APCM and our way ahead
- ◆ Our Director of Music and Choir
- ◆ Bradford Area Churches Together

Saxon Club Programme for April

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

5th April:	to be announced
12th April:	Echoes of the Raj — Alan Knight
19th April:	to be announced
26th April	No meeting

West Wiltshire Interfaith Group

No Interfaith Group meetings for April have been notified.

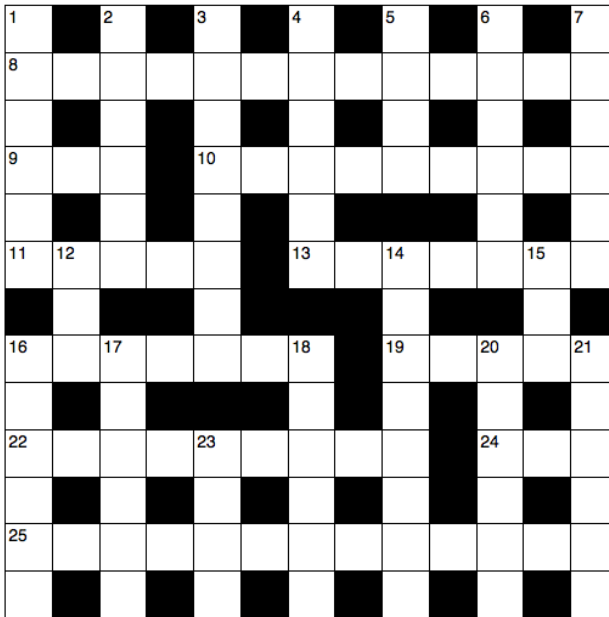
For Holy Week...

All the armies that ever marched, and all the navies that ever were built, and all the parliaments that ever sat, and all the kings that ever reigned, put together, have not affected the life of mankind on this earth as powerfully as has that one solitary life.

anon

Quick Crossword

The Bible version is the NIV



Clues across

- 8 'He poured out his life unto death, and was numbered with the — ' (Isaiah 53:12) (13)
 9 'When they had sung a hymn, they went — to the Mount of Olives (Matthew 26:30) (3)
 10 Comes between Galatians and Philippians (9)
 11 'Your heart will — and swell with joy' (Isaiah 60:5) (5)
 13 Muslim holy month (7)
 16 Ten ears (anag.) (7)
 19 Under (poetic abbrev.) (5)
 22 How Abram described himself to God when he complained that his inheritance would pass to a servant (Genesis 15:2) (9)
 24 'Go to the — , you sluggard' (Proverbs 6:6) (3)
 25 Debar from receiving Communion (13)

Clues down

- 1 My — for His Highest (Oswald Chambers' best-known book) (6)
 2 Festival of the resurrection (6)
 3 'His sons will prepare for war and — a great army' (Daniel 11:10) (8)
 4 'Let not the — string his bow' (Jeremiah 51:3) (6)
 5 Name of the River Thames in and around Oxford (4)
 6 'From then on Judas watched for an opportunity — — him over' (Matthew 26:16) (2,4)
 7 'But Christ is faithful — — — over God's house' (Hebrews 3:6) (2,1,3)
 12 Long-handled implement used to till the soil (Isaiah 7:25) (3)
 14 Order to which monks and nuns devote themselves (8)
 15 Appropriate (Proverbs 15:23) (3)
 16 I, uncle (anag.) (6)
 17 'They gave him — — of broiled fish' (Luke 24:42) (1,5)
 18 'Weren't there three men that we — — and threw into the fire?' (Daniel 3:24) (4,2)
 20 Mountain where Noah's ark came to rest (Genesis 8:4) (6)
 21 'Don't you know that friendship with the world is — towards God?' (James 4:4) (6)
 23 Prominent architectural feature of large cathedrals such as St Paul's (4)

PAROCHIAL CHURCH COUNCIL

Officers

The Revd Joanna Abecassis, Chairman
Joan Finch (Churchwarden) Trevor Ford (Churchwarden)
Graham Dove (Hon. Secretary) Jeremy Lavis (Hon. Treasurer)

Members

Anne Carter	Sue Platt
Graham Dove	David Rawstron
Marlene Haffenden*	Edward Shaw
Pam Harman	Kathryn Swift
June Harrison*	Anthony Swift
Ann Holland	Dr Malcolm Walsh*
Cecilia Hynes-Higman	Anne Willis*
Dr Nick Nutt	John Woods*

* Deanery Synod representative
Diocesan Synod representative

STANDING/FINANCE COMMITTEE

Chairman, Churchwardens, Secretary and Treasurer

CHURCHWARDENS EMERITI

Norman Hanney, Jeremy Lavis, Mike Fuller, Anne Carter, Tony Haffenden

FRIENDS OF HOLY TRINITY CHURCH

Patron: Dr Alex Moulton	Chairman: John Cox
Secretary: Mike and Jenny Fuller	Treasurer: John Woods
Committee:	Anne Carter; Bryan Harris; Jeremy Lavis; Rev Angela Onions; Raymond Winrow
Ex officio:	Joan Finch; Trevor Ford

PARISH NEWS

Editors:	Ann Holland (862731) & Bryan Harris (863011) e-mail: HT.ParishNews@gmail.com
Distribution:	John and Beryl Cox (864270)
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BRADFORD GROUP MINISTRY

This comprises the three benefices of Holy Trinity, Christ Church with Westwood and Wingfield, and Monkton Farleigh, South Wraxall and Winsley. The clergy meet regularly for prayer and shared planning, and there is an informal Group Council consisting of the licensed clergy and churchwardens, with Licensed Lay Ministers. The Group was established in 1975.

OTHER OFFICERS & ORGANISERS

PCC Secretary	Graham Dove	868654
	email: secretary@brad-avon-ht.org.uk	
PCC Treasurer	Jeremy Lavis	863600
Bellringers	Phil Gaisford	863538
Bookstall	Rev Angela Onions	309001
Brass Cleaning	Chris Hodge	866220
Brownies	Jennifer Hazell	863860
Director of Music	Gareth Bennett	01380 728772
Church Stewards	David Milne	864341
Coffee on Sunday	Elaine Giles	868654
Display Co-ordinator	Revd Angela Onions	309001
Electoral Roll Officer	Alan Knight	860991
Flowers	Jonquil Burgess	868905
Foodbank	Margaret & Bryan Harris	863011
Guides	Judith Holland	866215
Junior Church	Alison Cook	864116
	June Harrison	863745
Mothers' Union	Chris Hodge	866220
MU Prayer Circle	Chris Hodge	866220
Publicity Officer	Ann Holland	862731
Servers	Mary Ford	862240
Saxon Church and St Mary	Tory Trustees	
	Chairman	Anna Tanfield (all bookings) 863819
	Secretary	Diana Shaw Stewart 863253
	Treasurer	Jeremy Lavis 863600
Sidesmen Rota	Joan Finch	863878
Stewardship Secretary	Pam Harman	866995
Street Market	John Cox (Community Stalls)	864270
	Colin Johnston (Church Stalls)	868132
	Jackie Easby (Communications)	07708 331389

Parish Representatives on other organisations:

Bradford Group Council:	The Churchwardens
Children's Society:	Anne Carter
Christian Aid:	Jonquil Burgess
Deanery Synod:	June Harrison, Marlene Haffenden, Dr Malcolm Walsh; John Woods; Anne Willis (Deanery Information Officer)
Diocesan Synod:	Anne Willis
Churches Together:	David Rawstron
St Laurence School:	The Revd Joanna Abecassis and Dr Heather Knight, (Foundation Governors)

The cover picture on the printed version of Parish News is from a drawing by Jonathan Pomroy.

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Parish News also appears (in colour) on the Holy Trinity website:

www.brad-avon-ht.org.uk/. Previous issues of the magazine can also be found in the magazine archive on the church website.



The Saxon Church of St Laurence



The chapel of St Mary Tory