



Happy & Glorious

John
Good

The Olympic Torch came through Winterbourne Abbas on its way from Dorchester to Bridport despite the floods which closed the A35 for what seemed an eternity.

Happy and Glorious is a familiar phrase in the National Anthem, which for many seeks the best for both the person of the reigning Sovereign, and the Nation which Constitutional Monarchy is said to embody and represent ... Great Britain in all its rich and exciting diversity.

Our school children stood cheerfully in the rain waving and shouting – the focus of carefully prepared themed work over the previous weeks.

Special tribute was paid to seventy thousand volunteers for giving a welcome and showing generous unpaid hospitality to competitors and spectators. Their contribution contrasted with some gloomy headlines in the run up the Games.

For a while we were freed from the constant and relentless flow of heavy lorries and cars, able to cross the road in safety, and to hear birds sing in St Mary's Churchyard.

Clearly worst fears and dire predictions were in the event overwhelmed by the positive self-giving, exuberance, and creativity of so many; overall good organisation and management; gifts and achievements of young people from around the world; and the faith which committed eye-watering sums of money – an investment bringing rewards which cannot be measured in just monetary terms.

Nonetheless at the same time many households in the Valley suffered from water rising not just in floods, but from springs re-activated under properties and in gardens as the water-table rose dramatically. Some are still living with the clearing and restoring.

Of course a review will reveal mistakes and oversights, but let not these detract from what has been for millions of people a wonderfully enjoyable experience, and a testament to human commitment, health and wholeness.

At Abbas and Martinstown we joined in the national big ring at 8.12 am on the opening day of the Olympics – at Martinstown the bells were “fired” (You’ll have to ask what it means!) – a rare sound.

“Happy and Glorious” was IOC President Jacques Rogge’s description of London 2012, the thirtieth Olympiad held in thirty venues from Cardiff to Coventry, Newcastle to Weymouth & Portland.

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ST GEORGE'S FORDINGTON

MESSENGER

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Message from Fiona

One Christmas, when I was young, my parents put a furry black teddy bear on the far branches of the Christmas tree - visible, but untouchable. as we were likely to bring the whole tree crashing down if we pushed through the branches.

There was a label on the bear, but it was tantalizingly hidden so we didn't know if it was for me or my younger brother.

Eventually the temptation got too much, and while my parents were visiting neighbours, my brave and daring older brother put us out of our misery, pushed through the branches and read the label. He then came out, smiled and needed some considerable persuasion to tell!

The bear was for me - and was to journey with me for many years. But I still couldn't hold him and had to wait several more hours until he was finally given to me. All these years later I can still remember the joyful anticipation and agony of waiting.

Coming to St George's and St Andrew's feels a little like that. Things are being well prepared and sorted, the days are going by - but still I have to wait a few weeks more, and it's hard to wait. So if you see a strange woman and her dog floating round St George's, drifting round St Andrew's or looking lost in Dorchester, don't worry, it'll be me preparing for October 11th when finally I can begin to meet you all, get to know you and begin our journey together, and I just can't wait.

Best wishes, Fiona

Olympic Torch (very last mention)

One of my lasting memories of the Olympic torch coming to Dorchester was not the torrential rain or the torch (in the end I never saw it). No, it was our church full to brimming over with very excited, very wet and very happy Manor Park school children, along with parents, teachers and Head Melanie Cridland, as they waited their turn to picnic in the hall. None really knew at that time what the

Olympics were all about as they were just babies at the last games. The chatter was at fever pitch but all were so well behaved and not one crumb was left behind. Not to be outdone, the Thursday Group were going to cheer and then have a tea party — oh yes and to wave a flag or two.



Grandchildren

Little boys can be very unpredictable. As Wellworths were closing, I took the grandchildren in. Each had a wheeled trolley to fill; all picked toys, sweets and the girls some clothes. Rocco tipped his trolley out: 1 packet of elastic bands, 1 packet of twisty furry pipe cleaners, 1 pot glue, 1 box paper clips and 1 pack of paper. Whatever are they for, I asked. Grandma, he replied, have you never made a TOWER. Well, to be honest, no. I am waiting for him to return from holiday in France to show me. I have obviously missed something along life's journey. It will be the Wellworth Tower.

Have a rest Mum, my daughter said as she left for holiday leaving me with a very energetic Labrador who walks miles and is still not tired! Goulds coffee shop will be thankful for their departure — me arriving with the Famous Five in tow for lunch must have filled them with trepidation as they range in age from 3 -14 . I have to say they were just excellent with them — so good the children wanted to go again and again, which did neither my purse nor my bank balance much good.

Our children are our rainbows
Our grandchildren are our pot of gold

St George's Olympics

St George's Dragons (Sunday School) sports day was a huge success. Prior to the sports the Young People's group did a car wash, great work, not sure who got the wettest Allen Knott or the cars, but they raised lots of money for the Lunch project (holiday meals for children who normally receive free school meals).



As church finished they were all pretty excited and ready to party or run races or a little of both. Eggs were held on spoons instructed by a certain church warden !! and balls were helped in the right place by obliging adults. We laughed a lot and then enjoyed some picnic food. We owe a huge thank you to Jill, Hilary, Maggie and Chloe (our teachers) and many others who through the year are there to help and support with Carnival, Nativity and many other events.



Religion Can Be Fun

An elderly gentleman, who had been carrying a burden for many years, decided he would at last confess to his priest.

"Forgive me Father, for I have sinned. During WWII I hid a refugee in my attic."

"Well," answered the priest, "that's not a sin."

"But I made him agree to pay me £5 for every week he stayed."

"I admit that wasn't good, but you did it for a good cause."

"Oh, thank you, Father, that eases my mind. I have one more question..."

"What is that my son?"

"Do I have to tell him the war is over?"

Graham Barter

Back to school

On the first day of school, a first year boy handed his teacher a note from his mother. The note read, "The opinions expressed by this child are not necessarily those of his parents."

A little girl had just finished her first week of school. 'I'm just wasting my time,' she said to her mother. 'I can't read, I can't write, and they won't let me talk.'

Table Top Sale

The events committee are as busy as ever. You are invited to the Table Top Sale Saturday 15th Sept. 10am-1pm in the Church Hall. Tables are £10. If you would like to book a table, please contact Yvonne Lee (01305 268179 or e-mail yvonnelee@fsmail.net) We will also have a table to raise money for St George's and would be very grateful for donations of saleable items which you can leave on the tower steps.

I Was There!

Celia
Robertson

Like most of us I think, I felt all the aggravation in advance of the Olympics rather blunted my anticipation. However, not having bothered to buy myself tickets, I was invited to the penultimate day of the tennis, and the last Friday of the Athletics in the main stadium.

I should not have doubted – I was bowled over by the enthusiasm of the crowds and the amazing efficiency of the organisation. Volunteers, police and soldiers alike, all smiled and knew the answers to one's questions, queues for entry, food and loos were minimal, and the events ran like clockwork.

We saw the pole vault, several semi-final relay races, and the hammer. I am not sure that TV picked out the two little radio controlled minis that were used to return the hammers back to base after they were thrown – ingenious, and made me laugh!

We cheered everything, and groaned when the bar came down. At the tennis, I wished I had taken out my hearing aid before the roar that went up when Andy and Laura won their semi-final – it was deafening! I am SO pleased now that I can say "I was there"!

St Mary the Virgin

The Open Door

Church Correspondent: Canon Harold Stephens



Happening in September 2012

- Wed 5th 7.45 p.m. at St. George's hall – introduction to the new St. Aldhelm Certificate (this replaces the Emmaus Programme – see Benefice News.)
- Sat 8th 10 a.m. to 12.30 – St. Mary's Gift Day.
- Sun 9th 9.45 a.m. – St. Mary's Patronal Festival Mass
- Fri 14th 7.30 p.m. Holy Cross Day – Mass at St. Mary's.
- Sat 15th 3 p.m. Wedding at St. Mary's
- Mon 17th 2.30 p.m. – St. Mary's Senior Club in St. Mary's Hall
- Mon 17th 7 p.m. – Mass followed at 7.30 p.m. by St. Mary's Church Council.
- Fri 21st 9.30 a.m. – Mass – Feast Day of St Matthew.
- Fri 28th YP@D (young people group) weekend in Normandy – Peace and unity in Christ (Return Sunday evening)
- Sat 29th 7.30 p.m. – Russian Choir concert in St. Mary's
- Sun 30th 6 p.m. – Special Service for those who are carers in our community.

And in October

- Fri 5th 2 p.m. – Wedding at St. Mary's
- Sat 6th 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. – Dorset Meditators Day at Dorford Centre
- Sun 7th 9.45 a.m. – Special Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist, with students of St. Osmund's CE Middle School present. Offering in aid of Grace Secondary School and food offerings to the Food Bank.

People

Our prayers and best wishes go to Mr Dominic Thornton who attended his final service at St. Mary's on August 19th. Dominic has worshipped at St. Mary's for more than 3 years. He now leaves us to begin full-time training for ordination at Cambridge. The congregation presented him with a card and book token to express our fond feelings and support.

We welcomed back Mr John Lock who has resumed duties playing for services at St. Mary's after a period away for health reasons.

Fabric

We have received approval to install the new sound system and we have an expected starting date for the work for the second week in September. In addition tuning and some repairs have been carried out on the organ during the summer.

Children and Young People

We continue to prepare for the special Harvest Festival service on 7th October and for the start of recruiting for our proposed new children's choir in October.

Several of the young people of St. Mary's have been invited to represent the benefice and Diocese at a weekend in France at the end of this month. This will be on the theme of "Peace and Unity in Christ". We will welcome young people from France among us at the end of October.

Our Sunday crèche for young children continues each Sunday during the 9.45 a.m. Mass. Contact Rev Teresa Stewart-Sykes for more detail (266472)

Planned Giving and Gift Day



All members of the congregation are being asked to consider how much they give for the life and work of St. Mary's. A special information leaflet and letter has gone to everyone who worships at St. Mary's and all on the Church electoral roll. Our Gift Day is on Saturday 8th September in the morning. We need to pay for the running of the Church – its building and its ministry beyond the doors. With £63,000 to pay in 2012 we have some sources of income to help us. However, we all need

to try to give for the work of the Church otherwise we will not be able to survive! We need to increase regular, committed giving by at least £4,000 to meet future, rising costs. This would be

raised if we had an average of an extra £1 per week from every church member.



St Mary the Virgin



And that exhibition



On the weekend of the 7th and 8th of July we were treated to a wonderful exhibition of the Church's vestments complemented by "Flowers for Friendship" – a spectacular display of flowers throughout the Church linked to the seasons of the Christian Year.

Many thanks to all who helped mount the exhibition and make it so special.

Sanctuary Candles

The following donated sanctuary candles for August and September:

August 2012

5th Sue Blencowe in memory of her parents on their birthdays, 3rd and 4th August.

12th Audrey Litson in memory of her husband John whose birthday was 13th August

26th Janet and Gerry Comely in memory of their daughter Margaret Janet Comley-Nichols, whose years mind falls on the 28th August.

September 2012

2nd Given by Cyril Trewiss in memory of his wife Joan on their wedding anniversary on Sept 4th, also for his 90th birthday.

9th Given by Cynthia Fry for all children starting new schools.

16th Given by Joan Hodgkins in memory of her husband Denys whose years mind falls on the 18th Sept.

23rd Given by St Mary's Mothers' Union in memory of passed members.

Senior Club

Our Autumn programme begins on Monday 17th September at 2.30 with a talk by Jill Bryant on "Some Dorset Women". We meet in St Mary's Hall, Alexandra Rd on the 3rd Monday of the month from 2.30 – 4pm. New members or visitors are very welcome.

The Rev Teresa Stewart-Sykes – Team Deacon

On the 4th July at St. Mary's the Archdeacon of Sherborne, Ven Paul Taylor, licensed three clergy to the ministry team of the Dorchester Team Ministry. The Rev Jean Saddington and Rev Joanna Lacy Smith have completed their curacies and the licensing recognised their status as associate clergy (i.e. self-supporting) continuing their current ministry.

New to our Team, but not to Dorchester, is the Rev Teresa Stewart-Sykes. For nearly 2 years Teresa has been worshipping at St. Mary's, since moving here from elsewhere in Dorset. Having trained and been ordained as a deacon in 1989, Teresa served in more than one parish, including in Barbados.

Having taken a gap of several years in ministry, Teresa has been encouraged to 're-activate' as an ordained minister. As a result Teresa will serve as distinctive deacon in the Dorchester Team Ministry and continue to be based at St. Mary's. There she is leader of children's work and involved with the benefice young people's group "YP@D". Teresa is a secondary school teacher.



Rev Teresa Stewart-Sykes, Team Deacon

Sudan Church Association

Joan
Gooch

May I say a big thank you to all who donate postcards to support the Sudan Church Association. To date the sale of postcards alone has raised over £100,000 in the last nine years.

The Association is dedicated to helping support the Episcopal Church of the Sudan, working together with the Diocese of Salisbury. Please continue to donate as in the past. Collectors are : R & J Gooch 01305 268414.

New Team Vicar for St. George's

Harold
Stephens

It is with great pleasure that I am able to announce the appointment of Rev Fiona Hall, Chaplain at the Royal Berkshire NHS Trust, Reading, as the new Team Vicar based at St. George's.

Fiona hopes to move into Dorchester in September. Her licensing service, taken by the Bishop of Sherborne, will take place in St. George's on Thursday 11th October at 7.30 p.m. All are welcome to attend.

Please pray for Fiona as she leaves her hospital chaplaincy to start her new ministry among us.

Fiona will lead a strong team at St. George's and will seek to build new working relationships also with St. Andrew's, West Stafford.

Three New LPAs Commissioned

It is with great pleasure that many of us were able to attend the formal commissioning of three new Lay Pastoral Assistants (LPAs) for our benefice. As has been detailed in other editions of this magazine, LPAs serve to work with and in collaboration with the Parish Priest in pastoral work – work with children and families, sick visiting, befriending newcomers and visitors, visiting the housebound and elderly.

After 9 weeks of training, along with 10 others from different parishes in our area, the Commissioning Service at St. Mary's, Charminster, was held on the 10th July. The service was conducted by the Ven. Paul Taylor, the Archdeacon of Sherborne.

Those commissioned from our Benefice are:
Mrs Christine Griffin (of St. Mary's)
Miss Yvonne Lee (of St. George's) and
Mrs Ellie Stephens (of St. Mary's)

(continued on page 16)

From Rev Fiona Hall, new Team Vicar of St. George's

Fiona
Hall

Coming to join the Team in Dorchester is coming home for me, as I was born in the local hospital when my parents lived at Winfrith.

Although we moved away when I was two, I've regularly driven through on my way home to Jersey on the ferries from Weymouth.

At present I live between Reading and Maidenhead and have been chaplain at the Royal Berkshire Hospital for the last 4½ years. Before that I was a curate in Southampton. So by coming back to Dorchester my sojourn "up north" has ended!

With me comes Amy, an eight year-old Cocker Spaniel who can look very pretty until she gets near water or anything smelly. She is a "Pets As Therapy" dog and enjoys meeting people, especially if



Rev Fiona Hall.
New Team Vicar of St. George's.

they have a sausage to share.

As I applied for this post I prayed that if it were right then God would enable me to flourish and blossom and help others to do the same.

I told a chaplaincy volunteer this and she said, "but surely you must also bear fruit?"

So as Amy and I come to Dorchester we are really looking forward to meeting you and getting to know you all – and also hopefully there will be a flourishing, blossoming and bearing of fruit together to God's glory.

Which reminds me – if anyone knows how to move a large and rampant pumpkin plant from Reading to Dorchester, please let me know as it has me in quite a puzzle!

(Continued from page 6)

We wish them well and offer our prayers and support for their new ministries.



From left to right; Ellie Stephens, Christine Griffin and Yvonne Lee at their commissioning as LPAs

Study and Discussion in the Benefice

Harold
Stephens
& David
Bowen

Starting from the end of September there will be different opportunities for discussion study for adults. These groups are open to all.

The first programme is part of the new Diocesan “Aldhelm Certificate” **“Faith in God’s World”** . This year-long programme is split into 3 parts, beginning with a consideration of what it means to speak of and have faith in Jesus. The spring term sees an exploration of Science and Faith.

Full details are in a publicity leaflet to be found in all of our churches and the same information on line. The course, open to the whole deanery, is to be led by Mr David Bowen and Rev Patrick King. The sessions will take place in the Quiet Space on two Saturdays and several Wednesday evenings. The first session is on Wednesday 26th September, 7 p.m. at the Quiet Space, Poundbury.



Faith in God’s World

New One Year Course Exploring our Faith

If you prefer something a little less formal and open to diversions, unpredictable red herrings and with no specific expectations of quite how much will be covered, the

Emmaus Group on Monday evenings from the 8th October may be for you. This is to explore the theme of “Knowing Jesus”, looking at what we know of his life and of his core teaching about the Kingdom of God. It will also discuss how the Church came to have a “cosmic” vision of Christ.

Full details of this autumn programme are in a separate leaflet found in all of our churches and on line. The Emmaus group is led by Harold Stephens and the Rev Jean Saddington.



Christian Meditation Group Meetings

The Christian Meditation group will meet at the Quiet Space, Poundbury on Thursday 13th and 27th September at 7.30pm. All are welcome.

Wholeness and Healing

Jane
Culliford

‘Celebrating Care in our Community’, a service of thanksgiving for carers and those working in health and social care, which was held at St George’s Church last year, will be held this year at St

Mary’s Church, Edward Road on 30th September at 6pm. This is in place of the usual 5th Sunday Meditative Healing Service with Holy Communion.

Please invite those you know who are carers, paid or unpaid, to come to this service, particularly those who care for someone at home. Of course many are prevented by their caring duties from attending church but this service of thanksgiving is to assure them they are not forgotten.

Tony
Wheeler

I have been asked for a Christian approach to ageing legs. You may be astonished to know that there is a sort of theology of legs. It is not currently in fashion, it is mediaeval and therefore a bit strange.

A THEOLOGY OF LEGS

The origin of sin is pride – not trusting God to look after us. We decided to trust ourselves and in order to do so decided to stand on two legs so we could see further. However God had designed animals beautifully for four legs. A long sturdy backbone with all the organs – liver, stomach and such - hanging from it. All tidy, efficient and shipshape. On two legs organs hang a bit funny and they go wrong much more easily.

And another thing! Those great long legs we have grown to see even further. Not a good idea – feet too far from your heart. When you get old they don't work as well. Corns, bunions, feet swelling up, varicose ulcers etc. – and your poor hips, just not designed for so much weight and work. No wonder they go wrong. BUT IT IS ALL YOUR FAULT! For not trusting God enough. So there!

“But we get hands, don't we? And they are – well – very handy.”

So we do, another way of not trusting God to look after us. With hands come tools, machinery, money, avarice,

horrid bankers, worse politicians, etc, etc.

“What about ostriches?

They go on two legs. Is it their fault too?”

They're OK. They are birds with wings. They've grown a bit too large to fly, but they are as horizontal as they can get.

“What about kangaroos?”

Never heard of them.

(Australia not yet discovered, nor America.

Those theologians didn't know how lucky they were.)



Nobody believes any of this today, if they ever did. It has been rather heavily explained by me to make more sense. So regard it as rubbish – but it is true that our trust in God is definitely too feeble. Kindly trust more but use your brains too.

“Trust in God and keep your powder dry” – Oliver Cromwell. (If the problem is bad feet, perhaps O.C. would allow the powder to be foot powder. Just don't rub gunpowder into your feet, your doctor might not like it.)

Fun with Flowers

Dorothy
Maggs

In late June, Carol Stephens (our Rector's wife) and her business partner Sally Burrage kindly organised an afternoon of **'Fun with Flowers'** in aid of The Children's Society. It really was a fun afternoon. The idea was to take along a supermarket bunch of flowers and be shown how to turn them into something very special.

As a complete novice flower arranger I turned up clutching my £3 bunch of flowers from our newly opened supermarket not expecting it to look very much different when I had finished at the end of the afternoon. How wrong I was!

First of all Sally showed us how to change the look of any flowers by using different and unusual containers. A shop orchid was no longer in the white ceramic tube it was bought in but looked very graceful in a Grecian urn. We were shown baskets and glass troughs and even plastic washing up bowls with arrangements in (no water marks on the piano here).

We then progressed to the flower arrangements and Carol

showed us how to twist and tie our blooms and add greenery. We then wrapped and tied them into double cellophane and filled this 'bag' up with water before slipping them into a very colourful cardboard box. What a difference this made and it all looked so professional.

Of course we all made mistakes along the way and had lots of laughs too. It helped to be sustained by tea and home made cakes. I know there are to be more courses later in the year, which will be open to anyone, and if you want an afternoon of relaxation and floral achievement do go along no matter what standard you are. You will really enjoy the experience and realise how lucky we are to have Sally and Carol with their professional skills and the ability to entertain too.



ST PETER'S

High West Street • Dorchester



September Diary Dates

Sunday Services as usual:

9am BCP Communion

10:30am Sung Eucharist

and

Third Sunday (16th) 6.30pm Choral Evensong

On **Thursdays at St Peter's** there is always Morning Prayer at 8.15am and a short Said Eucharist at 10am, before which there is 10mins silence.

After the service, coffee is served in the hall and continues as 'Thursdays@St Peter's' until 1.30pm. All welcome to 'drop in'.

On Thursday 13th September 12-12:45pm there will be a free concert of various anthems, which has been organised by music student Alastair Simpson. Again, all welcome.

Choir and Music at St Peter's

This term three Choral Scholars from Thomas Hardy Chapel Choir will join St Peter's Choir for the academic year 2012/13 – Jenny Featherstone, Abby Fiddik and Alice Read. Congratulations to them on being awarded the bursaries – and welcome!

Background: There is an historic link between St Peter's Church and The Thomas Hardy School dating back to the 16th century. The scholarship scheme seeks to further this link by providing choristers from the Chapel Choir with opportunities for choral bursaries to St Peter's Choir. These have been made possible after a successful bid to The Salisbury Diocesan Mission Fund, from which a bursary has been given for two consecutive years on the condition that we continue to honour that provision for future years (!) So... certain fundraising concerts and activities will take place for that purpose and already this summer, collections from the School Evensong and from 'Hymns and Pimms' started the ball rolling...

Speaking of Hymns and Pimms – this turned out to be a popular evening last month with the congregation and various choristers singing the Top Ten Favourite Hymns (as taken from Google!) There have been many requests for hymn choices and another similar event soon – watch this space! (November)

Weddings

This month it is a great delight to have two weddings in church:

Fri 7th Sept 5pm: Matt Colley & Rachel Parry

Sat 29th Sept noon: Chris Mason & Sam Murphy.

Congratulations to you all!

Advance notices

Harvest Weekend 6th-7th October

Sat 6th October at St Peter's:

10am-12noon GIFT DAY (coffee served)



And in the evening:

Saturday 6th October at 7.30pm. A Concert

by Jenny Featherstone and Abigail Fiddik (sopranos), with Peter Oakes. Free admission, with retiring collection in aid of Dorset Advocacy's 'Got a Voice? Got a Choice!' campaign, and St Peter's Church Choral Foundation (see above). Dorset Advocacy trains volunteers to speak up for isolated people who have dementia or learning difficulties.

Sunday 7th October 10am – HARVEST Sung Eucharist

Spire to Spire

The Vicar and Treasurer have registered to take part in the Classic fm fundraising trekathon Spire to Spire (Winchester to Salisbury), a total of 26 miles, on Saturday 8th September, to raise money for St Peter's Church.

Details can be seen at <http://www.classicfm.com/radio/classic-fm-foundation/spire-spire-trekathon/>.

If you would like to support them, there are sponsor forms in church, or donations (cheques payable to St Peter's Church) can be:-

- posted to Mrs B Shuttleworth, 13 Romulus Close, Dorchester, DT1 2TH
- given to a Churchwarden at any Sunday Service
- brought to St Peter's Gift Day on Saturday 6th October.

Thank you.

A Manual for Life

Celia
Robertson

It may be that most of us have not bought a new car recently, but I am sure that we can recall those distant memories when we fumbled around

in the dark trying to discover how to put on the lights for the first time, or to find the catch to open up the bonnet to check the oil. The next thing we searched for was the Manual to discover the answer – where on earth did we put it? And where midst all that technical data have they hidden the instruction about the lights?



How much more important a Manual is the Bible for every Believer trying to live out a Christian life? The answers are all there if we know where to look – the Bible however as we know is huge, a whole library of 66 books, some of them pretty technical. When I first became a Christian, I didn't know where to start, and was somewhat daunted by the formidable task of exploring it all on my own. To begin with I

was advised to attend a home Bible Study Group. I had been taught a certain amount of Old and New Testament history at school, but that was a long time ago, and I had forgotten most of it; and in any case, the only copy I possessed was the King James Authorised Version, some of its language (beautiful as it is) is pretty difficult to understand.

I soon realised that most if not all the Group members observed a daily Bible reading time to extend their knowledge of Scripture, to deepen their relationship with the Lord, and to provide direction for answers to their daily problems. They were also using such modern and well researched alternative translations to the King James Version as the New International Version – somewhat similar to the New Revised Standard Version used in St Peter's today. I also came to understand that most of them were using daily Bible reading notes, of which there are several schemes to choose from with differing approaches. Most of these involve daily portions of scripture with a

short commentary designed for reflection to take as long as you like, but it need not be more than 5 -10 minutes!!

At a recent Church Council meeting, Vicky asked if I would set up a programme at St Peter's similar to that running at St Mary's, whereby members interested in trying out a Bible reading scheme for themselves can order their notes through me, since quantity orders often come post-free. Accordingly I have obtained for display copies of several schemes, including some for children, for people to browse over, and if interested, to make a choice for themselves. Initially the cost to each individual will include postage, but if sufficient interest is shown in any one scheme to order post-free, this will reduce the cost for everybody. Do please have a look at the display on Sunday September 23rd, and consider seriously becoming involved. Celia Robertson (tel. 01305 257 612)

Gold Medals

Maureen
Shaw

Were you, like me, glued to the television watching the Olympic Games, marvelling at the sheer dedication, commitment and the

character of the athletes to overcome all odds, both physically and mentally, and overwhelmed by the back up of their families and support teams, all dedicated in the pursuance of excellence.

Inspired by the way the athletes supported one another in the wonderful atmosphere of competition. Felt the elation when our teams won and when they lost we wished to support and commiserate with them.

We rejoiced in the amazing collection of Gold Medals won not forgetting the silver and bronze medals many more than we anticipated. It really was a showcase of the best sportsmen and women in the world. All nations gelled, politics were forgotten, religious differences did not matter, the colour of your skin did not matter. Please God we pray that this may continue now that the games have finished.

There are others who are not in the lime light who deserve to receive Gold Medals, for their commitment, character, their pertinacity to keep going against all odds. The unsung heroes of our times, yes I am thinking of our Carers who look after their sick relatives 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 12 months a year. This is not a glamorous job and it takes a very special God given gift to be able to undertake this often thankless job year in and year out.

So now that the glamour and excitement of the 2012 Olympic Games has come to its conclusion we pray that the goodwill, will overflow in to our lives so that we give can give these dedicated Carers the help and support they deserve as they continue with their daily routines.

St Andrew's Church West Stafford

Church Correspondent: Revd Jane Culliford



September 2012

2 nd	10am	Parish communion
8 th		Ride and Stride for Dorset Historic Churches Trust Church open all day to welcome participants and offer refreshments
9 th	9am	Holy Communion
	10am	Morning Prayer
16 th	10am	Parish communion
22 nd	7 for 7.30pm	Harvest Supper Village Hall
23 rd		No 9am Service
	10am	Harvest Thanksgiving Service for all the Family
30 th	10am	Parish Communion

Dorset Historic Churches Ride and Stride

Tim Dennis and Jane Culliford are seeking sponsorship to ride around as many churches as possible on 8th September, while the church will provide a welcome for walkers and cyclists from far and wide.

Harvest Thanksgiving

Sunday 23rd September 10am

Harvest Thanksgiving is the time when we particularly remember to thank God for all he provides and thank those involved in the production of our food.

So we give thanks to all who are involved in agriculture; farmers and contractors, wholesalers and distributors and agricultural scientists working to develop new seeds, new technical improvements so that we have food to eat.

This year has been a tough year for farmers affected by the extremes of the weather with poor yields of wheat and milk and animal feed so affecting their livelihood while we may have to face higher prices for our food. But we can be thankful that we will be fed.

Some in the wider community though, struggle to feed their families so gifts of produce and store cupboard groceries for the Women's Refuge and the Food bank will be welcome at the Harvest Thanksgiving Family Service on 23rd September, when the gifts and talents particularly of children and young people but of all in the community will be included as part of the service.

Those who wish to be involved please drop into the church between 10-12 noon on 8th or 22nd September.

Harvest Supper

The Harvest Supper will be held in the Village Hall on Saturday 22nd September at 7 for 7.30pm. Non alcoholic punch will be served but you are welcome to bring your own drinks. Entertainment will be provided by Allen Knott. Tickets £7.50 or £5 for children from the Churchwardens Tim Dennis 251338 or Esther Brown 757377.

Table Top Sale

Following the church's stall at the Village Fair, our fund-raising continues with a table at St George's Tabletop Sale on Saturday 15th September. Donations of books, games, gifts or other good quality items needed for this sale.

DorBAG Update

In July's magazine we reported that the BBC Trust has approved a proposal for a part-time radio station for Dorset. The Dorset Broadcasting Action Group (DorBAG) has welcomed this news but are hoping that this is a "first step" towards a full County Local Radio Station, as already provided by the BBC in adjoining counties. DorBAG says: "We are told that the BBC gives priority to those areas with higher populations, but this does not explain why counties of a similar size to Dorset already have a full local radio station, while Dorset does not. We will continue to press the BBC to achieve this goal."

BBC Radio Solent is currently trialling a version of the new programme on Saturday mornings and DorBAG is encouraging anyone who can receive the signal to listen in, as the BBC monitors the size of listening audiences, and this will help the case for full coverage.

DorBAG, whose pressure has resulted in this promising move, would be grateful for any support from organisations and individuals, whether it is just by listening to the programme on a regular basis, or by getting actively involved. The best way to contact DorBAG is via their web site at <http://www.dorbag.org.uk/main/contact.php>.

St Simon & St Jude

Winterborne Monkton



Wash Out!

Ursula
Norman

We were all prepared, scones made, cream whipped, jam at the ready for the tea following our Friends meeting, and our supporters from St Peter's Choir standing by to sing at the Festival Evensong on Sunday...

That was Saturday July 7th, when the heavens opened and it rained all day. During the night, the Winterborne (which had been dry all winter) rose and rose – burst its banks, and Monkton was under water.

Stock had to be moved, caravans towed off the site, the farm-yard was under water, the road became the river ripping up the tarmac surface, and the water seeped through the floor of Church Hall where the meeting of the Friends should have taken place. Postponement presented a problem – but somehow everyone got to know that we needed Noah to come to the rescue.

A fortnight later, guess what? Our Diamond Jubilee concert of Royal Music was scheduled to take place in the Church. Noah sent out his dove, and it returned with an olive twig. Still the flood waters prevailed.



We did not want to cancel, so with two days notice, our neighbours at Martinstown came to the rescue, and placed their Church at our disposal!

Thanks to the support of their Rector John Good, their extremely helpful Church Wardens and members of their congregation, we had a highly successful and well-supported evening. Duncan Honeybourne played his heart out, and our two young soprano soloists Alice Beverly and Georgie Malcolm sang like nightingales. Followed by refreshments and a great social buzz, it was a very happy evening.

Thank you Duncan and the girls, and thank you again Martinstown, you were stars.

NEW DATE: In spite of the fact that the Church Hall floor probably will not have yet been re-laid, we have very bravely rearranged our Meeting for the Friends at 4 pm followed by the usual tea, and the Festival Evensong in the Church at 5.30, for Sunday 9th September. Hopefully all the arrangements for the postponed meeting and service can now go ahead.



News from the Winterbournes

Pilgrimage to Northumbria
9-15 September 2013

With a year to go we are already up to sixteen people on a pilgrimage to the North. We will follow in the steps of some of the great saints of our country including Aidan, Cuthbert, Hilda and Bede. A complete package of coach transport, accommodation, food, and entrance fees, centred on St Chad's College, Durham, costs £525. The rooms are ensuite; the food and wine cellar are excellent.

Please contact Prebendary John Good to book your place, and enclose a deposit of £150 payable to "Dorchester

PCC". The Rectory, Martinstown, Dorchester DT2 9JZ.
01305 889466 johngood.martinstown@hotmail.co.uk.

Michaelmas

Winterbourne Steepleton celebrates its patronal festival on Sunday 30 September at 11.00 with preacher David Bowen. We hope to sing BCP Evensong in Martinstown Church at 6 pm. Come and join a rehearsal around the Rectory piano at 5 pm. Tea and cake.

Visit our Jubilee Festival website at
www.dreamsandvisions2012.co.uk



CHURCHES TOGETHER DORCHESTER

Compiled by
Val Potter
264416

Olympic Reflection

We had a hint of how all-embracing the Olympics were going to be when hundreds turned out in the pouring rain for the torch relay through Dorchester, but we couldn't have predicted just how gripped the nation would become by the spectacle and the dramas unfolding on a daily basis. I had the privilege of being a part of it all in Weymouth, Portland and for 2 days at the Olympic site in Stratford.

As well as the amazing sporting achievements we shared, it was a glimpse of how we yearn for the world to be: people of all the countries of the world coming together in peace and friendship, sharing a common experience. And it was such fun! There was joy everywhere and the humour and kindness of the thousands of volunteers were a major factor in the Games' success. We also shared in the pain of those who failed to reach the peak of achievement and generously acknowledged the efforts of competitors from every nation.

Someone offered the phrase 'glimpses of the Kingdom' in a different context but in the past few weeks we have shared an experience and a vision of the unity of our one amazing and diverse human family which should challenge and encourage us for the future.

The Olympic response in Weymouth and Portland

Under the banner 'Refresh 2012' the churches in Weymouth and Portland (and visiting folk from the UK, Texas, Hawaii, Poland, Hungary, Germany, Uganda, The Gambia and Nigeria) worked together to refresh the lives of those who visited the area. There was hospitality in the 3 Bedouin tents and an enormous range of daily activities in 'Hub' churches. Visiting Director of Evangelisation from Churches Together in England, Jim Currin, was clearly impressed and said, 'Refresh 2012 is a great example of how churches of various traditions can work together for a common purpose.'

Church volunteers were also on hand when Weymouth's Olympic Bayside Festival went into liquidation. Anni Douglas, Weymouth & Portland churches' Olympic co-ordinator, said 'The Christian volunteers from the Bedouin tent went round the site to see how people were feeling, listening to them and providing refreshments. They really appreciated it and we had a good response.'

Covenant in Broadmayne

The churches of Broadmayne are to express their ecumenical commitment by signing a Local Covenant on 30th September. In the spirit of the national Anglican - Methodist Covenant of 2003 the Churches in Broadmayne have worked together regularly in recent years; recently they have developed a monthly joint service in which the facilities of both churches and their halls provide spaces for a variety of break out groups. They produce a shared community magazine and cooperate over ministry in the local school and in the residential home. The local Covenant identifies and affirms what they already do together and what they might explore for the future. The service will be attended by the Bishop of Salisbury and the Chair of the Methodist District.

Fordington Methodist Church

It was with great sadness that the Synod of the Southampton Methodist District agreed to the closure of Fordington Methodist Church. Details of a thanksgiving service will follow and an appreciation of the long life and faithful witness of the church over the years.

An Alpha Accelerate Event

Saturday 22 September at Dorchester Baptist Church from 9.30am - 3.00pm.

There will be two streams covering the Alpha course; one for those with either little or no experience of Alpha and another for more experienced Alpha practitioners. There will be a third stream which will include the Marriage/ Marriage Preparation course, Parenting courses and Prison Ministry. The cost will be £10 which includes light lunch & refreshments. Please email Wendy Wright (officemanager@dorchesterbc.org.uk) for further details or to book. Speakers will include Alpha and Relationship Central Advisers, a team from Holy Trinity Brompton as well as speakers from Dorchester Baptist Church.

Meditation Day

Everyone is invited to a Dorset Meditators day, entitled "Awakening to the Mystery of Love through Meditation". The day will include talks, discussions and meditation periods and will offer the opportunity to share a contemplative space with existing meditators and others new to contemplative practice. The event is to be held on 6th



CHURCHES TOGETHER DORCHESTER

October, (9.30 registration to 4pm) at the Dorford Centre. Bookings can be made with a donation cheque of £10 (to be made payable to Rosalind Stockley) and sent to Anita Finnigan, 12 Brookhouse, Poundbury, DT1 3GL. For further information please contact Rosalind Stockley on 07929 007808.

Ecology Group

The group has booked Rabbi Neil Amswych for an evening in January to speak primarily to ministers and church leaders about the **Big Green Believers' Agreement**. Details of the evening are being worked out, but we hope that his message and enthusiasm for the cause will reach more people in our churches so that more will catch the vision for 'greening the churches'.

Gardenshare

Gardeners: Do you have no space to grow your own vegetables, herbs and flowers? Tired of being on the allotment waiting list? For many gardeners the desire to grow healthy, organic, local produce can be hampered by lack of space. The Gardenshare project seeks to link keen gardeners (novice or experienced) with owners who have space to share.

Garden Owners: Do you have an unused corner of your garden which a keen gardener could turn into a productive patch? Are you no longer able to look after

your garden due to a lack of time or reduced mobility? If you have outdoor space which you are no longer using, why not consider Gardensharing? The project will link you with a keen, local gardener looking for space to treat lovingly as their own. In return you will be offered a share of the produce. This is not a garden maintenance scheme but you will be rewarded with a tidier garden as well!

The Gardenshare co-ordinator meets all potential gardeners and visits all potential gardens before suggesting a match. The scheme provides insurance through the SW Allotments Association. Guideline agreements are offered for both parties to sign and ongoing support is available for owners and gardeners. We ask for an annual contribution of £10 p.a. from gardeners to help cover running costs and insurance. The scheme is free to garden owners. For more information contact 07561 432907 or gardenshare@transitiontowndorchester.org

Quiet Space

The main current action at the Quiet Space is in the garden. Plant removal is underway, prior to a thorough weed kill. Hopefully by then the money will be available for the new layout. Any extra funding contributions to that are most welcome; contact the parish office at 250719. It will be wonderful to see the garden fully developed as a beautiful place for quiet reflection to complement the space inside the building.

“Half a pound of twopenny rice”

Jean
Lang

Between 1909 and 1913 the Fabian Women’s Group started an investigation into the effect on mothers and babies of an increased amount of nourishment in the period immediately before and after birth.

42 families were visited in the London borough of Lambeth in the area around Kennington Lane. Each wife in the family was encouraged to keep detailed weekly accounts of income and expenditure. *Round about a pound a week* chronicles the lives of these families through their budgets.

It is a fascinating social history. The families chosen all had one wage earner in full time and mainly regular work who brought home between 18s and 30s a week. This was a deliberate choice by the researchers since those with wages of under 18s or none at all were likely to be in such dire circumstances that any additional food would have to be used for the whole family.

The families had between two and eight surviving children and they lived in rented accommodation of between one and four rooms, usually with running water only in the kitchen and with a copper (sometimes shared) for washing clothes in a communal yard. Out of the wages the husband generally kept something back for himself and this covered national insurance payments, a weekly payment to the hospital, tobacco and fares. The wife was left with between 18s and 25s to cover the rent (which took about one third), coal, lamp oil or gas, wood, matches, soap, soda and blue, burial insurance and food.

Clothes did not figure at all and food was the elastic item. Rent was occasionally not paid but a little less food all round leaves no outstanding debt! One family of five existed on 8s 1d per week for food, averaging 3s 6d for the working husband and just over a shilling each for the

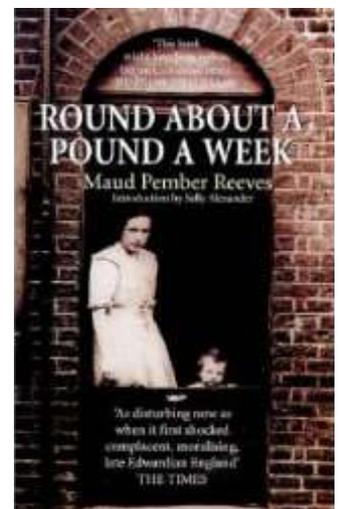
three children and the wife. The diet was high in bread but there was no fresh milk, the only milk being tinned condensed milk. There was no fruit but “greens” tea, dripping, suet, and potatoes, some meat and occasionally fish.

The conclusions of the survey are clear – that the children of the poor suffer not because the mother is lazy or indifferent but because “they suffer from want of room, want of light, want of air, want of warmth, want of sufficient and proper food and want of clothes and there is not enough money to pay for these necessaries”. Nearly all the babies born are normal and thriving at birth but after a year they begin to be noticeably undersized and peevish. There are no specific diseases (save for measles and whooping cough) but the children are stunted by force of circumstance.

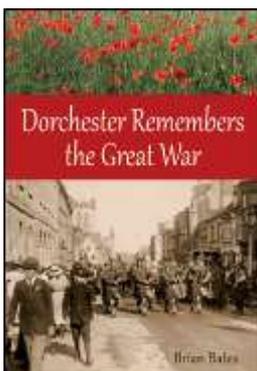
The overarching recommendation is that there should be a grant made for every child to secure a minimum of health and comfort – a forerunner of child benefit and there is a ringing condemnation of the State “which urges on parents duties which unaided they cannot perform.....but when children are neither fed, clothed nor housed decently, the State finds it convenient to look the other way”.

In the light of the current debate about social security and housing benefit budgets this book makes points which have resonances today.

Round about a Pound a week by Maud Pember Reeves



Dorchester Remembers the Great War, by Brian Bates



This book tells of the contribution made by a small market town to 1914 – 1918 war. 1,100 men enlisted from all levels of society to fight in the many different areas of conflict. Each Remembrance Day the town gathers to honour the sacrifice of those who never returned but, inevitably, after so many years, for most of us they have become just names on our memorials. Through his very impressive research, the author has opened windows through which we can glimpse the real lives behind those names. In doing so, he shows us the way in which families and society were affected and often changed forever. To some names and places will be familiar. Others will discover links with the past in what has grown to be a bustling modern borough. But no reader can fail to be moved by the personal stories of our predecessors and aware of what they made possible for the citizens of Dorchester today. Buy this book – or borrow it – but READ IT.