



SEILF EMIT

Vicky
Thurtell

As the reader will know, the clocks go back by one hour this month, on Sunday 28th October as British Summer Time (BST) ends for another year and we return to Greenwich Mean Time (GMT). Summer time was first defined in an act of Parliament in 1916. The clocks were moved one hour ahead of GMT from the spring to the autumn. During the Second World War, double summer time (two hours in advance of GMT) was introduced, lasting until July 1945. Since the 1980s, all parts of western and central Europe have co-ordinated the date and time of their clock changes.

What if you have a 'backwards' – anti-clockwise clock then (see picture above)? These are becoming increasingly popular and we have had one in the Vicarage and in the house before that for many years. Things always seem to make more sense reading backwards on the situation. We read and re-read the Gospels in the knowledge of what happened in the end: or do we yet know what happens in the end? To quote the recent summer film *Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*, Sonny the manager says (often) "Everything will be all right in the end... if it's not all right then it's not the end."

When we gain an hour in the early morning of Sunday 28th October, those with backward clocks will bizarrely have to move the hands forward clockwise into a Time-Lordian vortex. None the less, the clocks will go back and

we will gain an hour; does it bother you – living the hour again albeit that most of us will be asleep at 2am/1am? There is a Groundhog Day moment in re-living an hour and many will have said at some moment in our lives 'if I had my time again I'd.....' or perhaps with more pathos: 'if only I could have my time again..'

Have you seen the mugs, posters cards in the shops? – *Keep Calm...and carry on; Keep Calm and party; Keep Calm..and smile; Keep Calm..and insert your own caption*, there are many. This is sound advice! It is important to have a sense of what has gone before, without getting stuck in the past. We cannot have our time again and we do no harm in reminding ourselves of the importance of being prepared to move on without anxiety, in the sure and certain hope of new life. Moreover, we remind ourselves of the timelessness of God resetting our sense of direction through the everlasting gift of the Spirit. Then we are free to share the joy of each moment with others.

In the Mean Time we put summer behind us and carry on in the knowledge that in the end, united with all eternity and timelessness, 'all shall be well and all shall be well and all manner of thing shall be well'* indeed.

TIME FLIES – today is a gift, that's why it's called the present!

**quoting Julian of Norwich*

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ST GEORGE'S FORDINGTON

MESSENGER



Church Correspondent: Margaret Morrissey 250366

Margaret
Morrissey

All is safely gathered in - another summer past and what a summer we have had, not weather wise initially but I did eventually end up on

Weymouth beach sun bathing as I watched the sailing. Having got nicely sun tanned and feeling much less than my aged years, my lovely 8 year old granddaughter, Vivien, made me feel great by telling me, as I complained about an expensive hair do the sun had bleached, "Another two years Grandma and you will be grey all over - you can stay that colour then!" Why do they always bring you back to earth and reality?

Our vicarage conversion is almost complete ready for Fiona's arrival. Just as we felt time to take a breather the church sprang yet another leak, it is a hard task-master and hates to feel neglected, so back to the builders we will go. Looking back over the last ten months it is hard to imagine how Tim and I have survived, it has been hard work but very good. We have been so well supported by our lovely congregation who are truly our loved family, we could not have done it without them. When I was really feeling down they wrapped me in their love, an experience I have never felt before, I feel truly blessed.

There have been at least fourteen weddings (I spent more time emailing the bell captain, arranging flowers, organist & choir, than sleeping, one day I will tell a tale about the bells and a certain wedding - perhaps next month), even more baptisms and sadly too many funerals. We have said goodbye to some much loved members of St George's. I now know what takes up the time of a vicar. Our LLM and LPA's have been great and no one has missed a visit or any care they needed during the interregnum. The bonus - supper at Jo Lacey-Smith's, venue for our planning meetings.

Events have gone on like clockwork and never once when asked have the Events team not turned out for any occasion to provide refreshments. A huge thank you to all the Benefice team and especially the Rector who has kept his patience with this sometimes less than easy church warden. Now we are ready for a new beginning and a journey with our Vicar Fiona not forgetting Amy her

doggie friend, what do you bet we introduce a pets service, a first for St George's, how about it Fiona?

An October to Remember - Harvest, Two Visiting Bishops and New Vicar

St George's never believes in having a "quiet time", and October is not going to be the exception. Sunday the 7th we celebrate Harvest Festival and Reverend Richard Press will lead the service. We are so lucky to have Richard and Susan Press join our congregation. I am sure they were both looking forward to a quiet retirement, it's just not going to happen, they are already a much loved couple in the church.

On the 8th we are very honoured to have the Bishop of Salisbury visiting the church for The Dorset Historic Churches Trust, "Friends" event. The format is as follows:

At 12 noon, after a very brief welcome by the Chairman Simon Pomeroy, Bishop Nicholas will then address the meeting. Bishop Nicholas has a particular interest in Church buildings, and their role as "communal centres" to their communities. Examples of this interest have been his recent article in The Times, and of course the remarkable reordering which he oversaw at his previous parish, St Martins-in-the-Fields in London. He is Chairman of the Grants Committee of The National Churches Trust, to which we are affiliated.

At 1pm or so we shall withdraw to St George's Hall where a buffet lunch will be served.

At 2pm or so, Trustee Patrick Moule will lead everyone in a "tour" of the church, to point out matters of interest and archaeological significance. Patrick is a descendant of Henry Moule (who was vicar of Fordington in 1829), is a considerable expert in church architecture and archaeology, and has a fund of knowledge about the history of Fordington and its church. The Rev Henry Moule made an enormous impact on St George's so it

makes it even more wonderful to have a descendant of his standing in the place his ancestor did.

At 3pm, the event will conclude with tea in the Hall.



Henry Moule, sixth son of George Moule, solicitor and banker, was born at Melksham, Wiltshire, on 27 January 1801, and educated at Marlborough grammar school. He was elected a foundation scholar of St John's College, Cambridge, and graduated B.A. 1821 and M.A. 1826. He was ordained to the curacy of Melksham in 1823, and took sole charge of Gillingham, Dorset, in 1825. He was made vicar of Fordington in the same county in 1829, and remained there for the remainder of his life.

For some years he undertook the duty of chaplain to the troops in Dorchester barracks, for whose use, as well as for a detached district of his own parish, he built in 1846, partly from the proceeds of his published 'Barrack Sermons,' 1845 a church known as Christ Church, West Fordington. In 1833 his protests brought to an end the evils connected with the race meetings at Dorchester.

On the 11th the Rev Fiona Hall's licencing service will be led by the Bishop of Sherborne, another huge milestone for our lovely old church. We look forward to many of our friends joining the congregation to welcome Fiona as she begins her journey of faith with us.

Time for a Smile

My young grandson called to wish me happy birthday. He asked how old I was, I told him 65. He was very quiet for a moment and then he ventured, "Did you start at 1?"

Three elderly church ministers, all hard of hearing, were playing golf one spring morning, The Methodist minister observed, "Windy, isn't it?" "No", the Baptist pastor said, "It's Thursday." The Anglican vicar agreed, "So am I, let's go and get a pint."

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water.'
The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus.'

Ladies, don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Remember in prayer the many who are sick of our community.

Friendship isn't about who you've known the longest, it's about who came and never left your side.

I have learned that goodbyes will always hurt. Pictures never replace having been there. Memories good or bad will bring tears and words can never replace those feelings.

Retirement

Question: How many days in a week?

Answer: 6 Saturdays, 1 Sunday

Question: When is a retiree's bedtime?

Answer: Three hours after he falls asleep on the couch.

Question: How many retirees to change a light bulb?

Answer: Only one, but it might take all day.

Question: What's the biggest gripe of retirees?

Answer: There is not enough time to get everything done.

Question: Why don't retirees mind being called Seniors?

Answer: The term comes with a 10% discount.

Question: Among retirees what is considered formal attire?

Answer: Tied shoes.

Question: Why do retirees count pennies?

Answer: They are the only ones who have the time.

Question: What is the common term for a senior who still works and refuses to retire?

Answer: NUTS!

Question: Why are retirees so slow to clean out the basement, attic or garage?

Answer: They know that as soon as they do, one of their adult kids will want to store stuff there. Or move back in there . . .

Question: What do retirees call a long lunch?

Answer: Normal.

St Mary the Virgin

The Open Door

Church Correspondent: Canon Harold Stephens



Happening in October 2012

Tuesday 2 nd	Special PCC meeting at St. Peter's – see elsewhere for details.
Friday 5 th	2 p.m.; Wedding at St. Mary's
Sunday 7 th	9.45 a.m. special Harvest Thanksgiving Eucharist, with students of St. Osmund's CE Middle School present. Offering in aid of the Sudan Church Link and food offerings to the Food Bank.
Sunday 7 th	2 p.m. Thanksgiving service for the marriage of Tricia Vincent and Bill Winter.
Sunday 7 th	7 p.m. St. Mary's Harvest Supper in St. Mary's Hall.
Monday 8 th	7.30 p.m. – first session of the new Emmaus Programme “Knowing Jesus”. At Rectory.
Thursday 11 th	7.30 p.m. at St. George's: licensing of Rev Fiona Hall as Team Vicar. Service led by the Bishop of Sherborne.
Monday 15 th	2.30 p.m. St. Mary's Senior Club in St. Mary's Hall.
Wednesday 17 th	11 a.m. Mass followed by meeting of the Society of Catholic Priests at St. Mary's.
Saturday 20 th	7 p.m. – St. Mary's Quiz Night in the Hall – Tables of 6.
Saturday 27 th	YP@D (young people) – Saturday afternoon at Hilfield Friary.

And at the start of November

Friday 2 nd	9.30 a.m. Requiem Mass for All Souls at St. Mary's.
Friday 2 nd	7.30 p.m. at St. Mary's: Benefice All Souls Service.
Sunday 11 th	9.45 a.m. Sung Eucharist followed by act of remembrance at the Calvary.

Children and Young People

At the end of September, a small group of young people from the Benefice spent a weekend in Normandy as part of a new link we are forging with the parish of Bernay. Four of the group were from St. Mary's and two were from St. George's. More about this in a report in the November Magazine.

The next meeting of “YP@D” (young people's group) is a trip to Hilfield Friary on Saturday afternoon, October 27th. We depart from Dorchester at 2.30 p.m.

The crèche / Sunday School has now resumed at the 9.45 a.m. Eucharist for young children.

People

Our prayers and encouragement to the following being confirmed in the Cathedral on October 27th :

Emma Chutter

James Chutter

Ed Grassby

Their first communions will be at St. Mary's on Sunday 28th.

Our congratulations to the following married in St. Mary's or from St. Mary's:

Lee Joy and Robyn Hicks (15th September)

Bill Winter and Tricia Vincent (22nd September at Alveston, Warwickshire) - there is a special thanksgiving service for Bill and Tricia in St. Mary's at 2 p.m. on the 7th October.

Planned Giving and Gift Day

There are still some envelopes to come in from Gift Day which was held in September. At the time of writing about £1,800 has been received. For this many thanks to all who gave so generously.



There is still a need for an increase in regular giving. We invite everyone who is a regular member of the congregation to consider doing so if not already a regular, planned giver.

New Gift Aid declarations – Everyone needs to have signed a new form of Gift Aid declaration by the end of this year. There are still many to come. May we assure everyone that absolute confidentiality is kept in such matters.

St Mary the Virgin



Harvest at St. Mary's – 7th October

On the 7th October we are celebrating our harvest Thanksgiving. This year we shall be joined by pupils from St. Osmond's CE Middle School. The new head of Music, Mrs Caroline Pugh has kindly agreed to collaborate with St. Mary's and is bringing part of the "Ozzie Singers" to help with the music. Others will help with prayers and introductions.

We shall be reflecting on the gifts of the earth and that all people have a right to share in them. Offerings of food for the Food Bank will be brought up in the middle of the service – we are encouraged to provide any of the following:

Shopping List for the Food Bank

Small sizes VERY welcome

Milk (UHT or powdered)	Tinned fruit
Breakfast cereal	Tinned or carton rice pudding/ custard
Pasta	Tinned sponge pudding
Rice	Biscuits and snack bars
Pasta sauce	Jam
Baked beans/spaghetti	Coffee (small jars)
Packet soup	Sugar (500g)
Tinned meat/fish	Toilet rolls and toiletries
Tinned vegetables	<i>We cannot accept perishable food</i>
Instant mashed potato	

Humility

Tony
Wheeler

"If you wish in this life to advance... you must stir it and strumpit and blow your own trumpet, or trust me you haven't a chance". So says the advertising industry - and it is right. It works like a charm.

Even the Bible agrees, while deploring it - "As long as you do well to yourself, men will speak good of you".

But it is not Jesus' way - "Who being in the form of God counted it not a prize to be equal with God, but humbled himself and took the form of a servant". "Blessed are the poor in spirit", he said to us, "For theirs is the Kingdom of heaven".

What, then, is this humility, so prized by our Lord and so despised by the rich and famous? How shall we recognise it?

"Humility" is from the latin for ground. The firm ground upon which we stand. The ground virtue without which no other virtue really works.

The humble person is natural. He or she is not pretending. Not always implying how good, clever or holy (s) he is. The humble person is not obsessed by appearance but is concerned with reality. Is not a hypocrite. Conscious of his/her own failings and therefore understanding of the failings of others. More ready to forgive. Less ready to blame.



The humble person is open to other people... is concerned about how he or she can help... is less concerned to manipulate others for personal gain.

A humble person's eyes are always open towards other people. They are not obsessed by themselves. They are not envious, but pleased by the happiness or success of others. They "rejoice with those that do rejoice, and weep with those who weep", as the Bible says. They are not threatening, they are helpful and consequently our Lord can work through them.

You can see why Jesus said that such people already have the Kingdom of Heaven. The Kingdom of Heaven is the perfect society. It is for this life. We do not need to wait for heaven to have it – if we are humble. Humble people are in the kingdom of heaven already.

There are people like that around, you know. People who stand the values of this world on their heads. They are valuable and valued. My mum was like that. She was so genuine. She didn't talk, she did. The number of people she propped up in the Blitz was amazing.

For starters we had three bombed-out families camping out in our house. It became a bit crowded at times, especially when they fell out with each other. My mother made peace as far as maybe. She was lovely, but nobody is perfect. She was a terrible cook – but who cares? You can't have everything.

Licensing of Rev Fiona Hall

Harold
Stephens

This is to remind everyone that the service of licensing and welcome for Rev Fiona Hall, new Team Vicar of St. George's, takes place at

7.30 p.m. on Thursday 10th October in St. George's Church.

The service is led by the Bishop of Sherborne, Bishop Graham Kings. All are encouraged to attend.

Autumn Study and Discussion programmes for the Benefice

A reminder of the 2 programmes offered for the whole Benefice this Autumn and open to all (see the diagram below).

Full details are in leaflets in all churches and also from the Parish Office or clergy or lay ministers.

Happening in the Benefice this Month

- Tues 2nd 7 p.m. special PCC meeting with the Archdeacon, at St. Peter's.
 - Mon 8th 7.30 p.m. first session of new Emmaus Programme – at the Rectory
 - Wed 10th Governors meeting at St. Osmund's CE Middle School, 4.30 p.m.
 - Thurs 11th 7.30 p.m. Licensing and welcome service for Rev Fiona Hall at St. George's.
 - Sat 15th Aldhelm Certificate day at the Quiet Space (starts 10 a.m.)
 - Sun 14th 3.30 p.m. Special ecumenical service, with the Bishop of Salisbury, at Martinstown (remembering the Blessed Richard Adams, a Catholic Martyr of the Reformation)
 - Tues 16th 7.30 p.m. Joint meeting of the Clergy and Lay Mnsiters of the Benefice at the Vicarage, Herrington Road.
 - Wed 17th Churches Together in Dorchester AGM and Forum with reports and a talk about poverty and related matters in and around Dorchester. At the United Church.
 - Sat 27th 6.30 p.m. at Salisbury Cathedral – confirmation of 4 people from the Benefice.
- Friday 2nd November: Benefice All Souls Service at St. Mary's at 7.30 p.m.



Discussion and learning groups this Autumn

Emmaus – Mondays "Knowing Jesus"

See full details in information leaflets in churches

Aldhelm Certificate Course "Faith in God's World" Wednesdays and 2 Saturdays




Faith in God's World
New One Year Course Exploring our Faith

Robert
Potter

A few days ago I sat watching the clothes go round in the washing machine. Was it boredom? Had I nothing better to do? Another sign of advancing senility? No – there was a reason for it which I won't bore you with but as I sat there I thought about how clever this machine is.

We take the washing machine for granted and rarely think of what makes it alternate between going clockwise and anticlockwise, slow then fast, pause, then repeat the same cycle or change the pattern of what it does. Admittedly the drum is a big and heavy piece of machinery but the bit that makes it work is very small. In it there are commands to perform all these functions and many others which we rarely use.

It's a far cry from the twin tubs and other early machines and an even bigger step from the days of manual washing. I recently visited some preserved back-to-back houses where, in a small communal outhouse the week's washing was boiled in a copper and then, in the open courtyard,



Tony
Wheeler

When I was younger there was a lady with a reproving eye. She was unmarried, of uncertain age, and never stopped talking. She had a favourite subject which was how I could be a better vicar. This she pursued with unflagging energy, morning, noon and night.

I tried all sorts: friendship, parish jobs she could do (which she carried out very efficiently), appeals to her better nature, appeals to her worse nature, tellings off and ignoring her. She enjoyed all of these, and nothing made the slightest difference.

Now I am old and have Parkinsons. I think I shall call it Millie after my erstwhile friend. It is a permanent struggle. It does not (as yet) disable me unbearably, but it never shuts up, it always needs attention, it slows me down dreadfully and will certainly get me in the end. The

pummeled about with a 'dolly' and scrubbed on a skiffle board before being squeezed through a huge mangle. We have moved on and this progress has been possible because of the work of skilled, inquisitive minds and the development of new materials, again needing the use of our God-given brains.

During September and October we, in our churches, hold our harvest thanksgiving services, rightly celebrating the safe gathering of crops and the rearing of livestock, the **culmination of a year's work made more difficult and frustrating by this year's weather.** We give thanks for the skills, experience and persistence of farmers, growers and domestic gardeners in the production of the foods we need. But the control panel for the washing machine is just as much a harvest, the result of perhaps years of design and testing requiring original thought.

Similarly we take for granted things like bar codes – what a huge amount of information is stored in a few seemingly haphazard lines. And railway tickets which allow you to travel from Dorchester to, say, Oxford Circus but not to Bond Street (the next stop) and not on a day other than the one specified. All that is coded into a narrow strip on a piece of thin card. **It's all incredibly clever and the result of scientific brains working to answer a challenge.**

Traditionally harvest festivals concentrate on agricultural achievements but we need to broaden our thanks to include the harvest of exam successes, the safe completion of surgical operations, the novel which has taken so long to write, the design of a new aero engine, the final approval of a new drug. Let us give thanks for the people who make these things possible and to God for his wondrous creation and our wonderful brains.

The Reproving Eye

medication, though excellent, is palliative only. I am grateful to my doctors who do their best – **"All saying, as they take their fees, 'There is no cure for this disease'".**

Both my Millies are enemies, and both are friends because both define me. The things we cannot conquer set the boundaries of our lives as much as our victories do.

The Olympic ideal tells us that medals though greatly important are not all important. The Olympic ideal above all is about taking part. Of course, that is totally ignored **by the media and everybody in authority.** "Britain's Olympics were successful because we got lots of gold medals". **That attitude is as sterile as the worship of the filthy rich.** There are no gold medals for putting up a fight against Parkinsons or cancer. That is not to say there is no honour nor benefit.

"Praise be to God for my Sister Death, whom no man living can escape."

Karen
Weir

I thought you might like to hear how we got on at the Dorchester Lunch Club this summer. We opened at the THS Hardye Cafe on Monday 23 July

and we served a freshly cooked hot meal every day from 12.30 – 1.30 for the first 5 weeks of the holidays. 22 children attended Lunch Club for some or all of the sessions and we served a total of 268 meals over the summer. Children attended from the following schools:

Thomas Hardye (2)
Dorchester Middle (7)
St Osmund's Middle (3)
Damers (7)
Manor Park (2)
Pre-School (1)

In total 22 ladies volunteered their time to cook and serve the children.



children over the summer, Adam and Anakin have loved every meal you have given them, thank you again."

Mike Foley (THS Headteacher) dropped in to the kitchen a few times when he was in school and we've discussed using the facilities again next year. He told me that he had followed a family out of the canteen in the last week and said they were raving about Lunch Club and how valuable it's been for them; not just in feeding the children but in breaking up the day during the long holiday and giving them the chance to meet other families.

In total the Dorchester churches gave us £1500 [Thank you to all those who bought cakes at St Mary's and had their cars washed (or not) at St George's—Ed.] and we only needed £500 so we have plenty of money left for next summer. When we asked parents if they would be prepared to volunteer next time, most said they would like to.

We now have a Facebook page called "Dorchester Lunch Club" where parents and supporters can keep in touch with us and post comments - do have a look when you have time. One parent commented: "I would like to say a very big thank you to all the people that have fed our

All in all I believe the Dorchester Lunch Club has been a great success and I think it will grow next year as parents spread the word once they are back at school. Thank you to those of you who have supported us, both financially and in prayer, we are very grateful.

Kairos / Kainos Community—A Challenge To Change

Celia
Robertson

Had you told me in 1996 that for the next 15 years I would be going weekly into a prison to chat to the inmates, I'd have said you were out of

your mind. My husband and I had just returned to Dorset from our London home of 24 years; he had advancing Parkinson's, but was still very active. I had been very involved in our local Parish, and he in Christian work on a broader front in Parliament (particularly pro-life), with a couple of prison-orientated Christian charities, and as trustee of CARE. His constant refrain to me had been "What on earth shall I do with myself when we are in Dorset?" He need not have worried!

We were at that time worshipping largely at Emanuel Church, Weymouth, and came to know Geoff Hebborn, the very distinguished, and decorated Principal Prison Officer then in charge of "D" Wing in the Verne, Portland. "D" Wing is the oldest wing in the Prison, with high Nineteenth century casements, huge windows, and built into the hillside with turf on part of the roof: it would be extremely cold and damp if the radiators were not on all the year round. At one time there had been up to 12 men in each cavernous dormitory – new arrivals were automatically lodged there, and moved out only on proving good behaviour. It was however, notorious for its bad behaviour. Broken windows and bathroom

equipment, fires and violence were the norm.

Not surprisingly, sixteen years ago, General Ramsbottom the then Chief Inspector of Prisons, condemned the wing and said another use had to be found for it. Thus it was that Geoff proposed to the then Governor, Tim Turner that he consider using the Wing for a Kairos initiative. This is an overtly Christian scheme which had been tried in a Brazilian prison where the violence had become so rife that the prison officers had lost complete control. Local Christians moved in, and the outcome was miraculous – the most extreme sanction exercised being to threaten potential trouble-makers with transfer to another prison!

Having seen the video Tim managed to get permission from the Home Office to try the experiment. Some money was spent on making the Wing more accommodating to the scheme, lowering the ceilings, putting up 8 cubicles in half of each casement, providing a floor covering, chairs and a TV in the other half, a community room for wing meetings, and offices for project staff. Geoff, in need of Trustees for the charity, approached my husband Ronald to become one. Thus 15 years ago, with substantial funding from large national charitable funds, two managers working on the wing, and an organising secretary outside, we had initially 25 men accepting the "Challenge to Change".

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ST PETER'S

High West Street • Dorchester

Vicar: The Revd Vicky Thurtell 268767
Churchwardens: Mr Brian Hellin 268844
and Mr Mike Nisbett 260983

Sunday Services during October

- October 7th 10am Harvest Eucharist
- October 14th 9am BCP* Communion
 10.30am Sung Eucharist
 6.30pm Bible Society Service
- October 21st 9am BCP Communion
 10.30am Sung Eucharist
 6.30pm Choral Evensong
- October 28th 9am BCP Communion
 10.30am Sung Eucharist

*BCP = according to the Book of Common Prayer

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.

Dorset Advocacy trains volunteers to speak up for isolated people who have dementia or learning difficulties.

Sunday 7th October 10am
HARVEST Sung Eucharist
Please bring harvest produce to the altar.



Thank you!



Thanks to all who supported and encouraged Beryl (treasurer) and Vicky on the 'marathon' walk last month – Winchester Cathedral to Salisbury Cathedral: your generous donations amount to over £1000 so far towards church funds. If you would like to give a contribution but have not had the opportunity to do so then please know that the church will be open on Saturday 6th October 10am-12noon for the receipt of gifts for St Peter's church funds. Information leaflets about finances including Gift Aid and Direct Debit forms are available in church.

Advance notice

By popular request after the summer 'Hymns and Pimms', when members of the congregation wrote down their favourite hymns – there will be a '**Songs of Praise**' hymn-sing on Sunday 18th November 6.30pm. If you would like to add the title of your favourite hymn to the list then please see the notice-board in church OR email St Peter's at dorchesterstp@gmail.com OR send a message to facebook page St Peter's Dorchester.

For your diary

Choral services during Advent with St Peter's Choir (Alan Hallett 265315):

- Sunday 2nd Dec 6.30pm
A Service of Darkness to Light (Advent Carols)
Sunday 9th Dec 3pm
Carols at Winterborne Monkton Church
Sunday 23rd Dec 6.30pm
Nine Lessons & Carols

Interview with Allen Knott

Minna
St Aubyn

Allen Knott is a Licensed Lay Minister.

He has a definite presence. He talks fluently, he is sharp-witted, and not unwilling to express strong views. It's interesting to listen to him answering complex questions. His easy-going conversation changes pace, he stays quiet, obviously thinking carefully and then presents slow, many-layered answers.

He is expansive, authoritative, friendly, and, apparently, relaxed; taking the various aspects in my home in his stride. Neither the free-range chickens, the dog who sat at his feet throughout the interview or the difficulties of parking seemed to faze him.

In one way he's easy to interview, in another challenging - sometimes his enthusiasm drowns out my questions! Allen has been a Licensed Lay Minister for twenty-six years, first at St Mary's: since then at St George's. "People tell me I have a talent with people. I think people have taken to me at St George's and I have certainly taken to them."

Licensed Lay Ministers work as part of the Ministry Team. They wear a Cassock, a Surplice and the symbol of their office: a blue scarf. They are on the preaching rota, they serve Holy Communion to the sick, they prepare couples for their wedding, they officiate at funerals and, generally, work in the community as part of the Ministry Team, offering people their time and support.

Allen previously worked in the Child Protection Unit of Dorset Police, and later as their Community Relations Officer for over five years, retiring in 1999. Now he is Chaplain for the Retired Officers Association.

Allen, who is divorced, has a son, and a daughter, who has changed career as a marketing manager and is now studying midwifery.



Allen unwinds by going out in his seventeen footer cruiser. He launches it in the Wareham River and takes it into Poole Harbour. "I take people with me. When I go out I bring my mobile phone and only my family have that number. I need space sometimes."

"I am fascinated by the great development of what I see as a non Christian spirituality in the world. And my concern at the moment is that the church needs to sort itself out rather quickly or it may find itself overtaken. Equality, charity, sense of fairness: these things are welling up from areas outside the church and the church needs to take note."

"We need to remember that when we stand at the door of our church building we remember the reality of the words spoken to us at the end of the Communion service. 'Go in peace to love and serve the Lord.' You need to be at peace with yourself and with your Saviour. Don't lock yourself in. Unless you have a calling to be a monk or a nun, you belong out there in the world and that's where your faith needs to be on display and it needs to be worked through. You have as a Christian something so special that you cannot and should not keep it to yourself. Neither should you ram it down people's throats."

"We have to understand that people will find God in lots of different ways. No one has all the answers."

Kairos / Kainos Community—continued

Continued from page 17...

An important feature of the scheme was, and still is, the twice weekly "social" evening, with volunteers (then called God-parents) coming in just to chat to the men. We got involved straight away. Initially I could not see we were actually doing very much, but I began to understand when thanked one evening by an inmate: "Until you all started coming in we were just numbers - now we are names, and are able to regain our self-respect".

Now 15 years on, with the change of name to Kainos, and accredited as an approved rehabilitation scheme, we are still going strong, and in two other prisons as well. We have maintained our Christian ethic, but the material used for all the courses is phrased in secular terms for the 72 men on our Wing, all at various stages of their

progress. They do know that we volunteers are all Christians, and if asked, can answer quite frankly on matters of faith, but what impresses them most is that we are not paid for going in! Our statistics for re-offending are better than anyone else's - 13 ½ % compared with 35% plus nationally. We do have a small monthly prayer meeting to cover the work which is important, and an annual training day to alert us to the pit-falls of working with criminals.

Personally I cannot imagine my life now without involvement on "D" wing - I find it a warm, welcoming place, and I have met many interesting, and often very gifted people among the in-mates. I might add that we are always looking for more volunteer God-parents! Any enquiries please ring Celia Robertson tel: 01305 257 612.

St Andrew's Church West Stafford

Church Correspondent: Revd Jane Culliford



October 2012

7 th Oct	10am Parish Communion
14 th Oct	9am Holy Communion 10am Morning Prayer
21 st October	10am Parish Communion
28 th Oct	9am Holy Communion 10am Come and Worship

*** There are two 9am services this month as there will be none in November because of Remembrance Sunday and the Benefice service*

Keeping the Churchyard tidy

One of the features of St Andrew's Church is the attractive churchyard full of lichen covered tombstones surrounded by a stone wall and with several large trees and bushes. Many visitors come to wander around the church yard searching for the graves of their distant forebears though it is often difficult to read inscriptions. In the spring the churchyard is beautiful, first with snowdrops and then with masses of daffodils, but year round it is a quiet green space in the centre of the village.

While this churchyard is closed for new burials, there is a 'new' churchyard up the hill past the Wise Man public house on the right going out of the village. This is a pleasant and peaceful place which already has the graves of many well loved and remembered inhabitants and is large enough for a generation or two to come.

Throughout the summer months the churchyard around the church is kept looking tidy by a rota of volunteer mowers from the village and their efforts are much appreciated. However the architect's quinquennial report was a reminder that ivy was covering the churchyard walls, weeds were growing around the



church and the drainage gully was blocked with vegetation so a working party at the end of June began the task of clearing some of this unwanted growth. At the end of a hard morning's work there were a great many bags needing to go to the 'tip'.

However the task is not complete. Heavy rain in July meant the drainage gullies filled with more debris and every bush seems to have sprouted again. So, there will be another working party on Saturday 6th October starting at 10am when anyone is welcome to join us in continuing to keep the churchyard in good order. Old clothes are essential and if you can bring a variety of garden tools there is plenty of work needing to be done.

Plans for the church building

On 6th October while the churchyard is being tidied up, plans prepared by the architect for the proposed changes to the internal layout of the back of the church will be on display from 10am until 12 noon. The plans are for the creation of a servery or kitchenette at the back of the church, similar to the one at the back of St George's Church. This will improve facilities to serve refreshments as at present the only water supply is a tap outside in the churchyard.

At the same time the plinth under the font will be removed. This plinth has caused many to trip and its removal will create a bigger space and allow room for prams and wheelchairs. This is an exciting project to enhance the mission of a beautiful and historic church and there will be more news in the months ahead.

St Andrew's & St George's Churches

The church is not just about buildings. This month as we welcome the Revd Fiona Hall to the Dorchester team, closer links will be built between these two churches and their congregations on the eastern side of the town. A large town church with a 'village' green in front and a small village church on a busy road working to find ways to grow together in love and fellowship. While making these links both churches will continue to play their part in the wider Dorchester Benefice.

The Parable of the Drain

Margaret
Morrissey

Walking down the main shopping street in Dorchester recently, I came upon a very small boy with his mother. The child was inspecting the drain in the gutter, as small boys do. He asked his mother what it was for.

The mother could have said, "For water to go into," but no, she began to explain in depth to the child. I had to pretend to be window shopping in Gould's to listen. This is how it went.

"When it rains, some of the water goes on the garden and makes the plants grow, some on the fields and makes the crops grow to feed us with vegetables and corn to make bread. Some water is saved for us to drink, but some falls on hard ground and if it could not get away it would cause large puddles and floods so it needs drains to run down."

Without realising she was telling the child a parable, likening it to the parable of the sower. As Jesus taught through parables so this mother taught the child.



Often a child asks – where is God? What does He look like? God is all around us and speaks through us, as He did through this mother, through fathers, teachers and grandparents as we teach our children.

What a lucky little one to have such a caring mother. It certainly made me think of all the times when the endless questions of my children and grandchildren were sometimes answered with "I will tell you later." Next time I will take the time.

A Joke

A mother is waiting at the bus stop with her young son aged five. She tells her son that if the bus driver asks how old he is, he is to say he is four – then she won't have to pay for him. On entering the bus, the driver asks the boy how old he is, and the boy replies "Four". Then the driver asks, "When will you be five?" To which the boy replies, "When I get off this bus..."

News from the Winterbournes

Pilgrimage to Northumbria

John
Good

There are five places on the Northumbria Pilgrimage 9-15 September 2013. The package inclusive of ensuite accommodation, transport, entry fees, breakfast and evening meal (packed lunch available) is £525. Deposit £150 now, and easy payments over the coming months.

Names please and cheque payable to "Dorchester PCC" to Preb John Good, The Rectory, Martinstown, Dorchester DT2 9JZ. Tel. 01305 889466.

"Ride and Stride"

Our village Churches have benefitted in the past from grants made by Dorset Historic Churches Trust. So five people were glad to cycle in September raising £350.

As Martinstown had a wedding on the designated day, two

of us set out on the previous Monday at 7.30 to cycle to Wareham. A good ride in the cool of the morning in 2.5 hours – not bad for those of us carrying excess weight and decades of years !

John Adams

Blessed John Adams was one of the many Catholic and Protestant Martyrs of the Reformation. He came from Martinstown; and on October 14 at 3.30 pm Bishop Nicholas will be with us to reflect on those turbulent times, and the legacy we enjoy now of religious freedom. Tea afterwards in the Village Hall

Sunday 14 October 15.30 Martinstown Church with the Bishop of Salisbury

Taizé worship

Winterbourne Steepleton
Sunday 18 November at 6 pm



CHURCHES TOGETHER DORCHESTER

Compiled by
Val Potter
264416

1662 and All That

Whilst Anglicans have been celebrating the 350th anniversary of the Book of Common Prayer, the year 1662 also saw the Act of Uniformity which many clergy could not accept and led to what is known as the Great Ejection. Non-conformist churches stem from this event, and there was a service and exhibition to commemorate it at the United Church on 23rd September. The introduction to the service gives some of the background:

“Today we are marking some of the turbulent events of the mid seventeenth century. The Parliament of 1640 rejected what they regarded as Charles I’s unconstitutional actions in the eleven years since Parliament had last met. The Church of England was divided between those, including the King, who wanted to see greater uniformity and order in the Church and those who thought that the Reformation of 1559 had not gone far enough. The King was unwilling to compromise, and civil war followed.

“The Westminster Assembly of Divines appointed by Parliament (1643-9) produced a new Confession of Faith. The Christian Year disappeared with its feasts and fasts. Bishops were abolished, Cathedral foundations were dissolved. Large numbers of traditional Anglican clergy suffered deprivation and hardship – John Wesley’s two grandfathers among them - and ministers of Presbyterian and Independent views took their places in places of worship. Many ordinary people were simply bewildered by what was happening.

“Charles II’s promise of liberty encouraged Parliament to invite him to return, and the monarchy was restored in 1660. But the new Parliament was less willing to compromise. After churchmen failed to agree at the Savoy Conference, the Act of Uniformity was approved in 1662. The Prayer Book, with Episcopal ordination and jurisdiction, was re-imposed in its definitive form. Those ministers who could not accept the requirements of the Act of Uniformity were forced to leave and many hundreds did so.”

There is an article explaining this further on page 29.

Forum Invitation

Representatives of the churches may not have been meeting recently but they have been busy working together

in the town. The Quiet Space has become established, the Poverty Action Group continues to explore ways to meet need in the area, we contributed to the town community partnership and the Christian Aid group caught a bus ... Come along and find out more at the AGM of Churches Together in the Dorchester Area on 17th October 7.30pm at the United Church.

'One Step Forward'

A Regional Christian Writers Day hosted by South Dorset Christian Writers Group will take place on Saturday 20th October 10.00 am to 4.30 pm at Emmanuel Church, Southill, Weymouth. There will be speakers from the publishing world and workshops on fiction, non-fiction, poetry, prose.

Drinks are provided but please bring your own lunch. Cost: £5 (before Oct 5 please) Cheques payable to Mrs. J.G Piper. £10 at the door.

To register interest or book in advance contact Joy Piper, joy.g.piper@btinternet.com 35 Hardy Avenue, Weymouth Dorset DT4 0RQ

The Quiet Space

Hopefully we will soon be able to confirm a grant for developing the garden so that work can begin on paving and landscaping before the winter. The quilted panels for the wall hanging look stunning and the quilters have been keeping a journal with photos to show how it has been designed and produced. It makes a fascinating record.

Bereavement Workshop

Are you supporting a family affected by bereavement? Due to the high demand for places, Weldmar Hospicecare Trust are repeating this recent study day on 17th October 09.15-16.00 at Hammick House, Poundbury. We will explore issues facing families and how we can support them.

The day is suitable for school and chaplaincy and pastoral care teams, health & social care workers.

£90 including all course materials and light lunch. Booking form on our website: www.weld-hospice.org.uk/education. Contact 01305 269898.

The Great Ejectment of 1662

David
Cuckson

350 years ago, on St Bartholomew's Day, 24 August 1662, many ministers and worshippers felt obliged to leave their parish churches to worship

elsewhere, wherever they could without the intervention of the law. Over 200 ministers, a fifth of the clergy in the country were ejected, including between 70 and 80 in Dorset. There are no figures for the number of lay people affected. This came to be called the Great Ejectment and it marks the date from which the Congregational Church in Dorchester began its separate existence. We believe the ministers of all the town centre churches – St. Peter's, All Saints and Holy Trinity – were ejected at this time. This was all caused by the imposition of the Book of Common Prayer to be used uniformly in all parish churches.

In the United Church in South Street there is a stained glass window commemorating the Rev. William Benn, generally described as the first Congregational minister in Dorchester. The split was not what he had wanted. He had been content with his position as rector of All Saints' Church in High East Street, and he would have continued there but for the passing by Parliament of the Act of Uniformity 1662. William Benn failed to comply with the obligation to indicate his agreement to the requirements of the Act by the due date, and for his he was ejected from his living.

Benn had come to Dorchester in 1629, during the time when the Rev. John White was at St Peter's and Holy Trinity. Under White's influence Dorchester was very much a Puritan town, and when the Civil War started, Dorchester generally supported the Parliamentary cause. By the time of the Commonwealth Benn's own Puritan views were developing to a point where he joined the ranks of the Independents. He formed a "gathered church" within his parish, and it was only these committed members who were admitted to communion.



With the Restoration of King Charles II in 1662 hopes were pinned on the promises he had made from exile, in the Declaration of Breda, that, if restored, he would unite the nation under a rule of benign toleration that would bring an end to all the enmities of recent years. If that had indeed been

the case, William Benn and others might have stayed within the Church of England; certainly, Benn did not want to give up his living at All Saints'. However, a new

Parliament elected in 1661 contained a number of new, younger, Members, many from royalist families who had suffered financial penalties and loss of influence during the time of the Commonwealth, and who were keen to bring the anti-royalist elements back into line. The early euphoria of the king's return was beginning to lessen, and the Act of Uniformity was intended to bring the nation together not by toleration, but by forcing compliance with the new order.

It was the rigidity of the requirements of the Act of Uniformity that created the problem for William Benn and the others like him, because they saw these requirements as seeking to overrule the supremacy of the Scriptures. The imposition of the use of the Book of

Common Prayer, without alteration or qualification, was questioned on scriptural grounds, and Benn would commonly have used ex tempore prayer within worship. They were also now being required expressly to deny that the supreme authority in matters of doctrine and ordering of the visible Church rested, as stated in the Solemn League and Covenant made between the Parliamentary Party and the Scots, in the will of God revealed in Scripture, but had to accept overriding control by the State.

A period of persecution followed. In December 1662 there were six ministers and seventy others in prison in Dorchester for non-conformity. However, this did not stop ministers preaching and congregations meeting together and in time the futility of persecution became apparent. In 1672 a Declaration of Indulgence issued by the king relaxed the worst restrictions, although it would be a long time before Nonconformists had full equality before the law.

Now, 350 years later, we ought to look back, but need even more to look forward. So, the service held earlier this year in Westminster Abbey to mark the occasion was properly entitled "A Service of Reconciliation, Healing of Memories, and Mutual Commitment for the Church of England and the United Reformed Church". We are called to work together for reconciliation, healing and commitment, echoing the prayer included in the service: "Help us to honour our traditions, to be faithful to the needs of today and to be open to a future shaped by your Holy Spirit."

David Cuckson is a retired URC Minister and member of Dorchester United Church



The United Reform Church traces its origins to this time

“Two’s Company, Three’s None”

Jean
Lang

Monica Dickens (the grand-daughter of Charles Dickens) was born in 1915. Being, in her own words, a debutante not fit for anything, she started work as a “cook general” and during the Second

World War trained as a nurse. Both these experiences she turned into successful autobiographical novels, *One pair of hands* and *One pair of feet*. She followed these up with a succession of light, realistic romances which were popular in the 1950s and found in every Boots Library.

If Iris Murdoch was right when she wrote that the function of all art except the very greatest is to console, then Monica Dickens fulfils that function absolutely. In *The Winds of Heaven* she creates an ordinary heroine in Louise Bickford, recently widowed, in her sixties who finds that her unpleasant husband has squandered their money and left substantial debts which can only be settled by selling the house and contents and leaving Louise to exist on the £200 a year inherited from her parents.

She has three independent, grown up daughters and she finds herself having to live with each in turn. As the eldest Miriam says to her sister Eva, “I love her too, but I have had her for two solid months. When is she going to you?”

We follow Louise as she is shunted from one daughter to the next – never certain what she can or can’t do in their houses and flats, staying in her bedroom until she knows everyone is up and she can go downstairs without causing a disturbance, not certain whether she is guest or part of the family, wondering whether to accept a glass of sherry, whether to clear the table, do some washing, perpetually slightly in the way and knowing it.

During the winter she is able to stay with a friend, who owns a hotel and has empty rooms, but even that respite is

removed from her and she finds herself in London without money or a place to stay. She represents all that is awful in “genteel poverty”, a distressed gentlewoman with no resources to cope - that is until she meets Mr Gordon Disher.

What she sees when first they meet at a Lyons Corner House is “a fat elderly man with clothes slightly frayed at points of friction eating biscuits and reading a paperback thriller”. Mr Disher is a salesman in a department store selling beds but in his spare time he writes thrillers – thrillers which have in them sex, violence and crime and he gives his latest one (“*The Girl in the Blood-stained Bikini*”) to Louise to read.

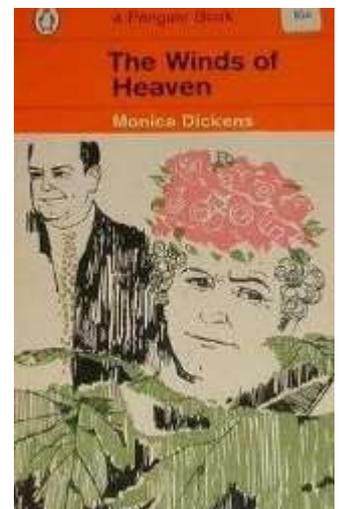
Monica Dickens writes sympathetically of the fear of aging in poverty, unwanted by children who have moved on, and from the unlikely meeting between Louise and Mr Disher she creates a believable romance for her nice, ordinary heroine.

This and other novels by Monica Dickens are worth tracking down. Although variable they are enjoyable and insightful with precise observation of the often forgotten middle class!

The Winds of Heaven

By Monica Dickens

Currently published by
Persephone Books Ltd



Editor’s Comment

As one door closes another one opens – how many times have we heard this? We are fortunate this is so with the magazine. As Dominic moves on to train for priesthood, Lucy Connelly has stepped into his place as production editor, saving the editor and Rector many sleepless nights.

Lucy and her husband Stuart have two boys, Aidan and Calvin. Lucy sings in St George’s choir and Aidan has just become a server. It is a big job getting the magazine ready for the printer but once more we have an efficient and committed person to do this. Thanks Lucy.

