



Shine as a Light

Fiona
Hall

Having just taken my first baptism service at St George's I was struck by the words to the baptism candidates:

'God has delivered us from the dominion of darkness and given us a place with the saints in light. You have received the light of Christ; walk in this light all the days of your life. Shine as a light in the world to the glory of God the Father.'

Appropriate words as the clocks go back and darkness and winter draw in, and, as we have opportunities throughout November to remember how painful life can be for many, with loss, war and conflict affecting so many.

These sentences call us to remember that we have a responsibility to allow Christ's light to shine in us in all that we do and that Christ's light, love and hope remain with us, in the harsh and dark times of life as well as in our joys.



Images: FreeDigitalPhotos.net

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ST GEORGE'S FORDINGTON

MESSENGER

Church Correspondent: Margaret Morrissey 250366



A HAPPY HARVEST MEMORY from the 1960s

Margaret
Morrissey

In a country church that was very crowded and beautifully decorated, all the children were anxious to present their gifts collected from the garden, and placed for safe keeping under the pew.

Hugh and I with our 5 children were there. After we had sung 'We plough the fields and scatter', the congregation sat down – except our little brood. The pew cracked rather loudly as we sat on it and I said 'Pretend and remember the vegetables!' Imagine 4 giggly girls and a toddler not knowing what to do.

The Vicar kindly halted the service and suggested we all found "safer seats". Was my face red?

But the church warden forgave us – as the pew was found to have 'wood worm'! **HAPPY DAYS**
– Frances Brooks

Which leads me to our Harvest celebrations, taken this year by Rev Richard Press. The children had a bumper crop of goods to take to the altar, which they coped well with and also helped with the sermon. In all a very rejoicing morning to thank the Lord for Harvest home. It was followed on the Monday by a visit from the Bishop of Salisbury to meet with the Dorset Historic Church Trust – another great occasion. How could we top that? Well we did on Thursday evening when Rev Fiona Hall was licensed to be our vicar.

The Bishop of Sherborne officiated with the Arch Deacon, Rector and more clergy than we could almost fit in. After a beautiful service with almost 200 in church Fiona received the key to the church and was installed as 49th Vicar, and we all drank Fiona's health in the hall afterwards. After a week of preparation, when we needed the Sunday School Noah's Ark float and the church got colder and damper by the minute, I pleaded for the heating to be left on, and for once got my way. The church was warm, everyone came prepared to be chilly



and struggled through as the place got hotter! The Bishop's face got redder and redder and the vergers switched off the heating but for once it took ages to cool down and I doubt I will ever hear the end of it.

Granddaughter Vivien, who comes to church with me each Sunday and is most devout, insists on staying in church – no Sunday school for her. She was asked by her Grandfather when we got home after Rev Fiona's first service, "Are you going to be a vicar or a nun?" To which she replied, "Well, not till I am really old – about 60." Where did she come from!!

October Altar Flowers

Harvest Altar flowers given by Margaret Walter in memory of her Mother's birthday and parents wedding anniversary and by Ann Arnold in memory of John and husband

October 21st By Dick Patterson in memory of his wife Ros

October 28th By Ron & Dorothy Huxley in memory of Ron's father James Huxley

A father was approached by his small son who told him proudly, "I know what the Bible means!"

His father smiled and replied, "What do you mean, you 'know' what the Bible means?"

The son replied, "I do know!"

"Okay," said his father. "What does the Bible mean?"

"That's easy, Daddy..." the young boy replied excitedly, "It stands for 'Basic Information Before Leaving Earth..' (This one is my favourite)

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the postal clerk.

"Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

There is the story of a vicar who got up one Sunday and announced to his congregation: "I have good news and bad news. The good news is, we have enough money to pay for our new building programme. The bad news is, it's still out there in your pockets."

Sunday after church, a mother asked her very young daughter what the lesson was about. The daughter answered, "Don't be scared, you'll get your quilt." Needless to say, the Mother was perplexed. Later in the day, the vicar stopped by for tea and the Mother asked him what that morning's Sunday school lesson was about. He said "Be not afraid, thy comforter is coming."

The minister was preoccupied with thoughts of how he was going to ask the congregation to come up with more money than they were expecting for repairs to the church building. Therefore, he was annoyed to find that the regular organist was sick and a substitute had been brought in at the last minute.. The substitute wanted to know what to play.

"Here's a copy of the service," he said impatiently. "But, you'll have to think of something to play after I make the announcement about the finances."

During the service, the vicar paused and said, "Brothers and Sisters, we are in great difficulty; the roof repairs cost twice as much as we expected and we need £4,000 more. Any of you who can pledge £100 or more, please stand up."

At that moment, the substitute organist played the National Anthem. And that is how the substitute became the regular organist!

A little boy opened the big family Bible. He was fascinated as he fingered through the old pages. Suddenly, something fell out of the Bible... He picked up the object and looked at it. What he saw was an old leaf that had been pressed in between the pages.

'Mama, look what I found,' the boy called out.

'What have you got there, dear?'

With astonishment in the young boy's voice, he answered, 'I think it's Adam's underwear!'

While working for an organization that delivers lunches to elderly shut-ins, I used to take my 3-year-old grandson on my afternoon rounds. He was unfailingly intrigued by the various appliances of old age, particularly the canes, walkers and wheelchairs. One day I found him staring at a pair of false teeth soaking in a glass. As I braced myself for the inevitable barrage of questions, he merely turned **and whispered, 'the tooth fairy will never believe this!'**

While walking along the path in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased.

The vicar's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Father, and unto the Son, and into the hole he goes.' (I want this line used at my funeral!)

St Mary the Virgin

The Open Door

Church Correspondent: Canon Harold Stephens



Questions and Answers

Robert
Potter

By the time you read this the St Mary's quiz will have passed into history, another social event in the church's calendar. We will have

welcomed (I hope) teams from other churches and elsewhere who will have challenged the home-based teams. But meanwhile I am compiling questions, a job that's not as easy as it may seem. How difficult should the questions be, and on what subjects?

I have been to quizzes with lots of questions on modern music and on sport, especially football. But I'm not sure that this would be right for St Mary's. Last year we had questions on Dorset and Hardy so it would be wise to omit those topics this year, I suppose. I like to include questions on British geography, and on things that are topical at the time and there's always room for a miscellaneous round which gives me scope for almost anything!

If the questions are too difficult (abstruse or obscure) then people go away disappointed at having done badly. If they're too easy it's hard to find a real winner. What is easy? All the questions are easy when you have access to the answers but when you're sitting round the table on quiz night even generally well-known answers can elude you.

There are so many quiz programmes on television ranging from Mastermind and Egg Heads to Pointless and I'm sure we can all sit at home and answer so many of the questions, wondering why the contestant is so ignorant of what must surely be general knowledge! Being in front of an audience (even if it's an audience beyond the cameras) can drive all knowledge from the memory. Last week, on Mastermind, I was able to do better than the lady who chose National Parks as her subject but had the situations been reversed I would probably have scored nothing.

I hope there will be none of these stresses at our quiz. It's meant to be a relaxed and enjoyable evening – although there will be teams coming who are determined to win! - and it remains to be seen whether the questions have been too hard or too simple.

A Harvest for Justice and Peace

A very special Harvest Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated at St. Mary's on 7th October. The service was organised in partnership with St. Osmund's CE Middle School. As a result children and young people of the school joined with adults and young people of St. Mary's to give thanks to God for the fruits of the earth and to focus on the Sudan and its needs. St Osmund's has been at the forefront of supporting the project for a secondary school in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan (The Grace Secondary School). Mr Ron Jenkinson spoke about this at the service. This is a project the whole Parish has supported with the leadership of Claire and Richard Budd.

To help lead the music some 40 pupils of the school (Ossie Singers) sang several times in the service, accompanied by the string Quartet from St. Mary's, comprising 3 former pupils of the school and led by Mrs Julia McFarlane.

As with several other churches, the offering of harvest gifts was earmarked for the Dorchester Food Bank.

The following week we were privileged to be joined by Bishop Andudu of Kidugli – where the Grace Secondary School is based. He also visited classes at the school on the Tuesday of that week.

Works to the Church Fabric

Works have progressed well to repair and redecorate the walls of the church, especially in the south transept and in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel. Apologies for the unsightly but necessary scaffolding.

Our new sound system is in place and initial "tweaks" made after initial trials. Many thanks to Mr Dave Joslin who has overseen this project.

The Community Pay-back team has done a tremendous job in the grounds of the church and are returning during November. Many thanks to them.

St Mary the Virgin



Happening this month at St. Mary's

Friday 2 nd	9.30 a.m. Requiem Mass for All Souls at St. Mary's. 7 p.m. at St. Mary's: Benefice All Souls Service.
Sunday 4 th	All Saints Sunday
Sunday 11 th	9.45 a.m. Sung Eucharist followed by act of remembrance at the Calvary.
Monday 19 th	2.30 p.m., St. Mary's Senior Club in St. Mary's Hall.
Sunday 25 th	10 a.m. at St. Andrew's, West Stafford; Benefice Service. Please sign up for transport if you wish a lift. List is in Church
Wednesday 28 th	4 p.m. at the Rectory, St. Mary's Fund-raising committee
Friday 30 th	9.30 a.m. at St. Mary's: Mass for Feast Day of St Andrew.
December Sunday 2 nd	Commissioning of the new Dorcas Mothers' Union Leaders at the 9.45 a.m. Eucharist

Sanctuary Candles

October 2012

7th Given by Janet and Gerry Comley in memory of their daughter Margaret Janet Comely-Nichols whose birthday was on 1st October

14th - 21st Given by Di House in memory of her niece Rachael whose years mind falls on the 20th October

28th Given by Di House in memory of her Mum whose years mind falls on the 25th October

November 2012

4th Given by Cyril Treviss in memory of his wife Joan whose years mind falls on 2nd November.

11th Given by Ellie Stephens in memory of Irene Keir, Tom Baker (Priest) and Marie Baker whose years minds fall at this time.

18th Given by Di House in memory of her brother Martin whose years mind falls at this time.

25th Given by Janet Comley to mark family birthday

Senior Club

Our November meeting will be on Monday 19th November when Pam Seaton will be talking about "Fans" and will be bringing some of her collection.

On Monday 10th December we will be going to the "Jail House Café" on Portland for our Christmas Lunch.

New members are always welcome and also visitors. We meet in St Mary's Church Hall, Alexandra Rd from 2.30pm - 4pm. For more details phone Rosemary 262615 or Audrey 262668

People - During October

Confirmed by the Bishop of Salisbury in the Cathedral on October 27th:

Ed Grassby, Emma Chutter and James Chutter (also: Matt Hollinshead of St. George's)

Married in St. Mary's:

On October 5th: Sara Parvin and Ross Adams

On October 7th: Wedding thanksgiving for Bill and Tricia Winter (formerly Tricia Vincent) - married earlier in Alveston, Warwickshire

On October 27th: Liz Russell and Bob Edwards

Is it only me? “Celebrating” World War One...

Harold
Stephens

Is it only me who is not enthusiastic about the Government’s announcement of its proposals for major “celebrations” marking the centenary of the outbreak of the First World War? My knowledge of history tells me that this war was fought between imperial forces of different sizes, with very little initial cause and with appalling loss of life. Modern historians may argue over the quality of leadership of the British and allied forces. Many observe how little was achieved by it all except to bring about a terrible post-war depression, sow the seeds for extremism in European politics and destabilise Europe generally.

On November 11th we mark Remembrance Day – surely that is enough? To revisit a war in which no one alive today fought is anachronistic and troubling. We have rejected having a “Trafalgar Day” or a “Waterloo Day” as national events – they would be a little less unacceptable. What do you think?



Image: FreeDigitalPhotos.net

Christian Meditation

Our busy lives with its constant activities and demands often leaves us longing for a breathing space, for a little time to ourselves, where we can touch and be aware of a deeper self which brings some balance and harmony to our lives and a greater awareness of the Spirit who lives in our hearts through love.

To live more deeply out of this reality, we need stillness and silence allowing us to be attentive to the many changes that flow through our lives, mindful of the divine presence at the centre of our being. Our practice of meditation gradually helps us to respond to our everyday lives with greater calmness, insight and understanding.

Our Christian Meditation follows a long and well-established tradition of contemplative prayer in the Christian Church and is part of The World Community for Christian Meditation which is led by the Benedictine monk, Fr Laurence Freeman. It is an ecumenical community which welcomes people of all traditions.

Our Meditation groups meet every Wednesday at 5pm in the Chapel at St Mary’s Church, Edward Rd, Dorchester & also on the 2nd & 4th Thursdays at 7.30pm at the Quiet Space, Poundbury. All are welcome. For details contact Rosemary Bassett 01305 262615 or Anita Finnigan 01305 259032

May we commend also the special guided retreat day on Saturday 1st December entitled “The Jesus Prayer”. This is led by Rev Geoff Turnock. 10 a.m. – 4 p.m. and concludes with the Eucharist.

Welcome to Rev Fiona Hall

We all crowded into St. George’s on 11th October for the licensing service for Fiona Hall as new Team Vicar of St. George’s. The Bishop of Sherborne, Dr Graham Kings, aided by the Archdeacon, the Ven. Paul Taylor, led the service which was attended by members of all our churches, representatives of Churches Together in Dorchester, our schools and also the Deputy Mayor, Mrs Tess James. Many thanks indeed to all who worked so hard during the vacancy and also who prepared for this service.

Learning and Training!

A reminder that the Aldhelm Certificate course is now running – using the Quiet Space as its base. Please contact Mr David Bowen or Rev Paddy King for more details.

On 24th November (times to be confirmed) Rev Paddy King is running a workshop for the whole Benefice on **“Leading Intercessions”**. This will be at the Quiet Space, Woodlands Crescent, Poundbury. Look out for more details or contact Paddy directly.

The Food Bank

The Food Bank continues to reach out to families and individuals under stress financially and who need help with basic foodstuffs. More volunteers are needed now. Volunteers help in many different ways. More details from your church’s rep or from Dorchester Baptist Church where the Food Bank is based.

Happening in the Benefice this Month

- Friday 2nd 7 p.m. at St. Mary's: All Souls Benefice Service for those who have been bereaved.
- Saturday 3rd Aldhelm Certificate Group study day at Quiet Space. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- Sunday 4th All Saints Sunday
- Sunday 11th Remembrance Sunday – including Town Service at Cenotaph (10.45 a.m.) and ceremony at the German War Memorial, Fordington, at 3 p.m.
- Tuesday 20th Joint meeting of clergy and LLMs of the Team – Martinstown, 7.30 p.m.
- Saturday 24th Benefice intercessions workshop at the Quiet Space (see details elsewhere)
- Sunday 25th Feast of Christ the King. Benefice Service of Holy Communion at St. Andrew's, West Stafford at 10 a.m. (See details of other services on this day on Pews news)
- Friday 30th Feast of St. Andrew the Apostle. Mass at St. Mary's at 9.30 a.m.
- Sunday 2nd (December) Advent Sunday: Commissioning of new leaders of Dorcas Mothers Union Branch at the 9.45 a.m. Eucharist at St. Mary's.

Where There's a Will...

Tony
Wheeler

...there`s relations. How true! In the course of a long ministry I have come across quite a few disputes about who gets what when someone dies.

Families fall out about this regularly, sometimes permanently. What astonishes me is that it isn`t always about anything valuable.

One dispute I remember was about a washandstand. They were in use, long ago, before everybody had a bathroom. There was a china basin, a flat space for soap and flannels, and provision for a little towel rail. The whole thing stood on four legs in a corner of the bedroom. There was usually a large ewer for hot water which stood next to it. Some washandstands were posh and expensive. Some might even be antiques today.

This one was not like that. It stood on rickety legs, without much hope. The basin was metal and appeared unhygienic. The woodwork was a sort of brown, somewhat discoloured, and its varnish was cracked and decrepit. I felt sorry for that washandstand. Perhaps it had given good service at one time. I felt we should stand to attention, salute in memory of better days and chop it up for kindling. Instead the family stood around it and argued - and argued - and argued who should have it. I tried to calm them down, but they were not responsive. The dispute went on for months and when I left the parish there were still a couple who were `not speaking`.

Do make a will, dears, truly you should. Clergy are instructed to remind us that this is a Christian duty. It

doesn`t cure all family disputes, but it does cut them down quite a bit and shifts much of the blame to the deceased. He (or she) has departed from us with no forwarding address so there is no one to quarrel with. Peace, therefore, usually prevails.

A will is not the only thing that should concern us about our death. Death is a journey that all of us must make. The most important that any of us will make. Would you go on even a holiday without packing? Yet these days most of us, even Christians, are so terrified by the prospect of death that we bury our heads in the sand like an ostrich, leave our unprotected posteriors to what may come and refuse even to hope for the best. We just do not wish to know.

Fairly obvious considerations:

Forgiveness. Is there anyone you have not forgiven for injuries real or perceived? Jesus was quite firm about this. **“Forgive us our sins as we forgive those who sin against us”**. No forgiveness for them means no forgiveness for us. Jesus said this lots of times. Forgiveness can be so hard that it seems impossible. In fact it is not. There is no room to go into this now. If you need to, please ask someone.

Prayers. It is a good idea if you are to stay with someone for a long time – such as for ever – that you take pains to get to know him. I am sure we all do this already, but I just mention it. Most of us are the better for some guidance with that too.

What Must the Lord be Thinking ?

Imagine the conversation the Great Creator might have with St Francis about this.

GOD: Frank, you know all about gardens and nature. What in the world is going on down there on the planet? What happened to the dandelions, violets, thistle and stuff I started eons ago? I had a perfect no-maintenance garden plan. Those plants grow in any type of soil, withstand drought and multiply with abandon. The nectar from the long-lasting blossoms attracts butterflies, honey bees and flocks of songbirds. I expected to see a vast garden of colors by now. But, all I see are these green rectangles.

F: It's the tribes that settled there, Lord. The Suburbanites. They started calling your flowers 'weeds' and went to great lengths to kill them and replace them with grass.

GOD: Grass? But, it's so boring. It's not colorful. It doesn't attract butterflies, birds and bees; only grubs and sod worms. It's sensitive to temperatures. Do these Suburbanites really want all that grass growing there?

F: Apparently so, Lord. They go to great pains to grow it and keep it green. They begin each spring by fertilizing grass and poisoning any other plant that crops up in the lawn.

GOD: The spring rains and warm weather probably make grass grow really fast. That must make the Suburbanites happy.

F: Apparently not, Lord. As soon as it grows a little, they cut it-sometimes twice a week.

GOD: They cut it? Do they then bale it like hay?

F: Not exactly, Lord. Most of them rake it up and put it in bags.

GOD: They bag it? Why? Is it a cash crop? Do they sell it?

F: No, Sir, just the opposite. They pay to throw it away.

GOD: Now, let me get this straight. They fertilize grass so it will grow. And, when it does grow, they cut it off and pay to throw it away?

F: Yes, Sir.

GOD: These Suburbanites must be relieved in the summer when we cut back on the rain and turn up the heat. That surely slows the growth and saves them a lot of work.

F: You aren't going to believe this, Lord. When the grass stops growing so fast, they drag out hoses and pay more money to water it, so they can continue to mow it and pay to get rid of it.

GOD: What nonsense. At least they kept some of the trees. That was a sheer stroke of genius, if I do say so myself. The trees grow leaves in the spring to provide beauty and shade in the summer. In the autumn, they fall to the ground and form a natural blanket to keep moisture in the soil and protect the trees and bushes. It's a natural cycle of life.

F: You better sit down, Lord. The Suburbanites have drawn a new circle. As soon as the leaves fall, they rake them into great piles and pay to have them hauled away.

GOD: No!? What do they do to protect the shrub and tree roots in the winter to keep the soil moist and loose?

F: After throwing away the leaves, they go out and buy something which they call mulch. They haul it home and spread it around in place of the leaves.

GOD: And where do they get this mulch?

Sudan Link

Tricia
Bowen

Since June 2011 President Bashir of Sudan has set out to 'cleanse' the country's South Kordofan State by bombing, starving and raping the population there. The President of Sudan and the Governor of South Kordofan are both indicted by the International Criminal Court for crimes against humanity in Darfur, but they act with impunity while the world looks the other way. President Bashir has boasted that anyone who wants to overthrow his regime can "lick their elbow".

On October 5th, Maeve McLenaghan in the Guardian reported that President Bashir has continued to deny UN organisations access to a quarter of a million increasingly desperate people in the Nuba mountains. The Sudanese Armed Forces indiscriminately attack rebels and civilians in the area. The Rev Ameka Yousif, a pastor who has lived in the Yida refugee camp in neighbouring South Sudan since February, reports that bombing is happening almost every day in South Kordofan. The local people

have had to hide in the caves and have not been able to farm their fields, so starvation is making them flee to the South, but the army waits at the border to kill them as they try to cross.

Yida refugee camp is home to more than 64,000 refugees, with nearly 200 more arriving each day. The UN expect it to increase to 90,000 by the end of this year. It is estimated that over 400,000 refugees had fled to this desperately poor country.

This is not a Muslim versus Christian conflict. The people in Darfur are similarly targeted and they are predominantly Muslim. Grace School, which many of you will have been inspired to support, caters for all local children, whether Christian, Muslim or animist, whose families have lived harmoniously in the Nuba mountains for many generations.

If you want to know more, go to www.NubaNow.co.uk which will give you much more information and ideas of how you can help.

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

November 4th - All Saints

9am Said Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist

November 11th - Remembrance Sunday

9am Sung Eucharist
[10.55 - Civic Service at the Cenotaph]

November 18th - 2nd before Advent

9am Said Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist
6.30pm Songs of Praise

November 25th - Christ the King

9am Eucharist with hymns
[10am Service at West Stafford Church for the whole Benefice]



Hymns & Pimms

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.

Christmas Bazaar

Please put Saturday 8th December in your diary - St Peter's Christmas Bazaar, 10am - 12 noon. This is the popular annual fundraiser and community event so your support would be much appreciated. In readiness for this we would be grateful for donations of items for the following stalls: red and gold, purple and green, blue and silver and a men's stall (in response to request that there was nothing last year to interest men!). Offers of help would also be welcome. Please contact Val Beavis (268756) or Beryl Shuttleworth (266616, bshuttleworth04@aol.com).

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

Christmas Services at St Peter's:

Monday 24th December - Christmas Eve - 11.30pm
Midnight Mass

Tuesday 25th December - Christmas Day - 10am
Christmas Day Eucharist

Thank you

THANKS to all who made the Harvest weekend at St Peter's such a special time:

To those who cleaned and decorated the church, for all the giving - which amounted to £2750 from the Gift day & Concert and £1271 for the sponsored walk - towards

much needed church funds. Thanks also to those who attended and contributed in any way to make the Sunday Harvest Festival service a joyous, welcoming and generous occasion with over 160 people in church and it was good to welcome the new members of the Boys' Brigade and Girls' Association with officers Andy & Tina Hall with Tony Day.



St George's Church Christmas Tree Festival 7-9 December 2012

Methodist/Anglican Covenant in Broadmayne

Val Potter

We sang and prayed together as we celebrated the signing of a Covenant between Broadmayne Anglican and Methodist churches on 30th September.

St George's Church Events Committee is running a Christmas Tree Festival on 7th, 8th and 9th December 2012. We hope that your Group / Family can join us in this and decorate a tree with the theme we have chosen which is "What we love about Christmas". Our aim is to fill the church with trees which will be blessed in the Sunday morning service.

Your Christmas tree needs to be artificial and a maximum height of 5 feet. If you wish to use lights on your tree then they must be battery operated lights. (Unfortunately due to health and safety concerns we cannot have electric lights because of the trailing cables being a trip hazard). We do have a number of trees, of varying heights, available to borrow on a first come first served basis. If you do not have a tree, you can be artistic and create a tree from twigs, fir cones etc.

The church will be open for trees to be decorated on Thursday 6th December from 4 - 6.30pm and Friday 7th December from 11 am- 4pm. The festival will then be open to the public on Friday 7th December from 7-9pm, Saturday 8th December from 11am - 7pm and Sunday 9th December from 12-4pm. Please arrange to come and dismantle your tree after the festival, between 4pm & 6pm on Sunday 9th December. Programmes will be on sale and there will be drinks and home made cakes for sale in the Christmas Café in aid of church funds.

You can decorate your tree as you wish; but to enable us to produce the programme, we will need to know the theme you have chosen.

For more information and to return your form please contact Maggie Carter tel: 01305 266072, 11 South Walks Road or Yvonne Lee tel: 01305 268179 email yvonnelee@fsmail.net.

The covenant formalises and affirms the cooperation already taking place in the village, with joint services and community initiatives, and commits the churches to developing their collaboration in the future.

The service started at the Methodist Church where the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev Nicholas Holtam, spoke about the importance of working on our relationships, **and then moved on to St Martin's, where the Chair of the Southampton Methodist District, Rev Dr Andrew Wood, said that ecumenism is not an add-on extra but a way of being the Church in each place.**

The Covenant concludes with the words:

In signing this Covenant we wish to be obedient to the call to unity which is the will of God the Father, prayed for by Jesus the Son and enabled through the power of the Holy Spirit.

St George's Church – Christmas Tree Festival 2012
Forms to be returned by Sunday 11th November

Name of Group or Family.....

Theme for tree.....

Contact name.....

Contact number.....

Number allocated to tree (for use by events committee)

St Andrew's Church West Stafford

Church Correspondent: Revd Jane Culliford



Dates for November

4th 10am Parish Communion

11th 10am Morning Prayer with Act of Remembrance

18th 10am Parish Communion

25th 10am Benefice Service Christ the King

30th St Andrew's Day

*** There are no 9am services this month because of Remembrance Sunday and the Benefice service*

Keeping the Churchyard tidy (again)

The weather was good and there were lots of volunteers at the working party held at the beginning of October. All worked hard to help tidy up the churchyard; to prune back the trees and brambles and clear the ivy from the churchyard walls. The resulting pile of garden waste was huge needing several trips to the 'tip'.

However, there is still more work needing to be done, so there will be another working party on Saturday 10th November starting at 10am. All are welcome to join in keeping the churchyard in good order, old clothes and gardening gloves are essential and bringing some garden tools would be helpful.

Remembrance Sunday

This year Remembrance Sunday actually falls on the 11th November. At 11 o'clock on the 11th day of the 11th month at the end of the 10am service of Morning Prayer we shall remember in silence those who gave their lives in the service of their country.

As a wreath is put on the War Memorial in church we shall particularly remember William Fowler, William Fry, Robert Birnie and Frank Barter, men from the village who died in the First World War and the Rector's son, Robert Corbett-Winder, who was killed in the Second World War. It is painful to reflect on what such a loss of life meant to a small village community, but it reminds us to continue to pray for peace.

Saltire image: FreeDigitalPhotos.net

St. Andrew's Day



On the 30th November the saltire, the blue flag with the white diagonal cross that is used as the national flag of Scotland, will be flown from the top of St Andrew's church. This is not to suggest that the church is about to support Scottish independence but because it is St Andrew's day. St Andrew is the patron saint of the church in West Stafford (and many other churches) as well as the patron saint of Scotland, Russia and Greece.

Andrew became the patron saint of Scotland because legend has it that his relics were taken to the east coast of Fife by St. Regulus, leading to the founding the city known as St. Andrew's famed for its university as well as for its golf course!

Andrew was one of Jesus' first apostles, a fisherman from Bethsaida who was somewhat overshadowed by his brother Simon Peter. In accounts in the gospels, Andrew was called by Jesus to follow him and leave his nets beside the Sea of Galilee and it was Andrew who pointed out to Jesus that a small boy had five barley loaves and two small fish at the miraculous feeding of 5,000 people. Andrew the fisherman is commemorated in the church with a beautiful green altar frontal depicting fishes in a net, used throughout ordinary time.

Benefice Service

The Benefice service for Christ the King will be held at St Andrew's church at 10am. on Sunday 25th November. Although St Andrew's is a small village church so people will need to make the best use of all the seating, it will be wonderful for it to be filled with those from the town churches joining the regular congregation to worship and celebrate Holy Communion together. It will be helpful if people can share cars to avoid parking problems, but the village hall has been booked so there will be places for parking behind there as well as on the road. Refreshments will be served in the Village hall after the service.

St Simon & St Jude

Winterborne Monkton



Ursula
Norman

Well – the dove did not return when Noah released it in September, so we were able to have the meeting of the Friends of Monkton Church on the 9th, but at Southmead instead of the

Church Hall which is still drying out. Four new Friends signed up, and after the meeting, which was followed by cream tea, we had our Festival Evensong in the Church supported by Choir members from the Benefice.

Harvest Festival: As usual we made this a Children's Service, and we had twelve lively young things and their parents – more than we have ever had before, for which Harold must take the credit!

A date for your diary – our Carol Service will be at on Sunday 9th December at 3 pm. It is being led by St Peter's Choir – we always look forward to their visits.

Farm roundup from Charles

We have had a quite extraordinary year. A very kind winter turned into a wet spring which meant that our maize was not drilled until the middle of May. No hay in

June and then the floods of 7-8 July. Whilst we at Monkton had our lane under water and a cottage and the village hall flooded, the cattle at West Stafford were marooned by the Frome and received their barley rations by boat or canoe, courtesy of John Alpin (www.riverworks.co.uk).

When the water began to drop I was consulting my handbook to see how deep my pickup truck could wade – 600mm is the answer.

Harvest was long and protracted and our worst yield in my 27 years of farming. Green straw and wheat in the middle of September was a new one to me.

The lack of sun and hence energy has translated into lower yields in the milking parlour. The beef cattle are fattening a month later than predicted and crucially there is 15% less electricity from my new solar panels. Finally Pristine, the new Angus bull has sired his first calves: a set of dairy cows.

Some Creatures Great and Small

Ruth
Chipp-
Marshall

Guinea Pigs are vocal, happy characters who make excellent pets for children as they are easy to handle and enjoy human interaction. Their main way of communicating is their voice, and

different noises mean different things:-

Whistle/Wheek is general excitement or calling if they are lost. Bubbling/Purring when they are enjoying themselves or being fed. Rumbling – this can be a sign of dominance or being scared or angry. Chutting/Whining when being chased or chasing. Chattering Teeth – a definite warning sign!

Guinea Pigs are naturally sociable and normally prefer to live with another pig. If they are handled from an early age they will make great companions. They are very active animals day and night and need lots of opportunity to exercise.

Living in a draughty, damp, poorly ventilated or dirty environment can cause guinea pigs to become ill. A secure cage with enough room to exercise with plenty of dust free hay for bedding is ideal. They are particularly sensitive to temperature changes and must be kept out of extreme heat or cold. Temperatures above 26 C can cause heat stroke and below 15 C can cause them to become chilled. They

are prey animals and must be able to hide away from the sight and smell of predators such as cats, dogs and foxes.

Guinea Pigs must have plenty of fresh water available at all times. Fresh hay should be the main food you give them with some fresh grass (but NOT lawn mower clippings) and leafy greens such as kale and broccoli. Guinea Pigs have a special dietary requirement of extra Vitamin C so a fresh supply of grass based pellets should also be fed daily. Only give carrots or fruit in small amounts as these are not something that they would naturally eat.

Guinea Pigs are also called 'cavy' and are a species of rodent, so despite their names they are not related to the pig family at all and do not exist in the wild. They are domesticated descendants of other related species of cavy and they originated from the Andes.

Whilst researching this article I found lots of diverse information about Guinea Pig history including their important use as a food source for humans in the Andes and many rituals including being rubbed against the body of the sick as they are seen to have supernatural healing powers! Personally I just prefer to cuddle mine!!!

Ruth Chipp-Marshall is the receptionist at Fielding and Cumber Veterinary Surgeons



CHURCHES TOGETHER DORCHESTER

Compiled by
Val Potter
264416

Forum and AGM

'Great', 'encouraging', 'such a lot going on'; these were some of the responses to the recent Forum and AGM of Churches Together in the Dorchester Area. The Chair (Harold Stephens) reflected that we had started the year a little uncertain, but ended it with more confidence in what we were about and in all that we had done together. We rejoiced in new events (the Time of Peace in the Borough Gardens) and the formation of a new group tackling environmental issues.

Margaret Barker then spoke on the shocking poverty still to be found in and around the town. This is often hidden and difficult to tackle as individuals and families are not in large numbers or in defined areas. Many people are suddenly in a crisis due to changed circumstances, or even a hitch in the system, if they have no reserve savings to tide them over.

News and reports from groups and organisations:

Christian Aid

Christian Aid Week donations were 7% higher than 2011, despite the current economic climate. The Olympic in the Borough Gardens with Martin Nicholls and a partner from Sierra Leone was a great success. When the Tax Justice Bus visited Dorchester we learned about the campaign to ensure global companies pay tax appropriately. The *Christmas Big Sing* will happen again this year on 7th December at the United Church.

Dorchester Food Bank

Sadly there is an increasing need for the Food Bank, based at Dorchester Baptist Church, and over 400 people were helped during the year. Volunteers are on hand to listen and to signpost users to other helping services. The group are considering transporting food to outlying areas where people may not have money to travel to Dorchester.

First Dorset Credit Union

Not enough people know about this excellent service, which can offer low cost loans to those who have difficulty getting credit elsewhere.

Poverty Action Group

The group continues to give one-off grants e.g. for kitchen appliances, baby equipment, and travel costs for courses and hospitals. Basic furnishing from Dorset Reclaim can be funded for people moving into accommodation who may have no belongings at all. The group ran courses for those needing help with budgeting but people find it hard to acknowledge they need this kind of help. Winter and Christmas vouchers can be a very welcome contribution for those needing urgent help.

The Quiet Space

A strength of this project is the range of different spiritual traditions of the participating churches. The churches now use it for prayer groups, Christian meditation, meetings and study courses outside opening hours. A substantial grant is enabling work on the garden to begin. The wall hanging by the Poundbury Quilters is nearly finished.

The Ecology Group

The group commend to churches and individuals *The Big Green Believers' Agreement*, produced by an inter-faith group from across Dorset. Rabbi Neil Amswych will explain it at the Apple Supper on 14th January. The 2 shared meals with speakers have helped more people to become aware of environmental issues and the need to take action individually and collectively.

The Dorchester Community Partnership

The partnership of councils, statutory agencies and voluntary organisations aims to improve the quality of life for everyone living in Dorchester and the surrounding area. Churches Together are represented and churches are recognised as making a significant contribution to local community life. The Community Plan is being updated and everyone is invited to the Annual Meeting of the Partnership on 14th November, 7.30pm at the Corn Exchange.

Fordington Methodist Church

Fordington Methodist Church will hold its final service on 25th November at 3.00pm.

Margaret
Morrissey

Bishop on ministry and mission of historic churches

On 8th October, the historically significant Church of St George,

Fordington, Dorchester, hosted this year's 'Friends of Dorset Churches' seminar organised by the Dorset Historic Churches Trust (DHCT). Its Chairman Simon Pomeroy welcomed and thanked over 100 friends, supporters and church representatives.



Keynote speaker was the Bishop of Salisbury, the Rt Rev Nicholas Holtam. His compelling and wide-ranging address included the continuing importance and relevance of the ministry and mission of historic churches in today's largely secular society. This particularly applies in Dorset with many parishes where most of the churches are small and Grade I or II* listed.

"Good ministry builds up people and their communities.

Churches are for life, not just for Sundays, and buildings and facilities adapted and made fit for use as nurseries, learning centres, community hubs and shops."

Bishop Nicholas, a Trustee of the National Churches Trust (NCT) and Chairman of its Grants Committee, praised the DHCT for assisting Dorset's Christian churches to meet the increasing costs of maintenance, restoration and reordering. "It is one of the best examples of 32 other charitable County Church Trusts in England and a reason why Dorset's churches are mostly so well cared for."

Following lunch in the church hall, The Friends' afternoon programme focused on Fordington itself, originally a village outside the walls of Dorchester. Local art historian Gwen Yarker spoke of its interesting 19th Century social history, the role of the Church and in particular its vicar for half a century from 1829, the reforming Reverend Henry Moule and his family also friends of Thomas Hardy.

In conclusion, DHCT Trustee James Sabben-Clare conducted an informed tour of St George's, beginning with its Norman origins, pointing out its finer features and explaining its somewhat eccentric architectural history to the present. The Dorset Historic Churches Trust provides some £100,000 annually to Dorset Churches of all Christian denominations to help meet the cost of fabric repairs, maintenance and restoration. Its main source of income is the Annual 'Ride & Stride' which takes place across the County every September. Since its beginnings in 1991 the event has raised £800,000; the results of last September's 'R & S' are still coming in from parishes but a total over £50,000 is anticipated.

www.dorsethistoricchurchestrust.co.uk

Dual Harmony

Graham
Barter

On the 22nd September the Casterbridge Male Choir had the pleasure of entertaining the Launceston Male Voice Choir to a

concert in St George's Church.

This turned out to be a wonderful feast of male voice singing with great contrasts in pieces and conducting styles. The songs sung ranged from beautiful religious pieces such as 'Morte Criste' (When I Survey The Wondrous Cross) to the swing era with a selection entitled 'Kings of Swing' to popular songs including 'You Raise Me Up' and the ever popular show medley from 'Les Miserables'.

Fortunately the roof was still intact at the end when both choirs joined forces to sing 'American Trilogy' at the end

of the first half and then 'Morte Criste' to end the concert, and what thrilling moments they were for any singer taking part on those occasions, which enhanced the magnificent acoustics of this lovely church.

The different styles of the musical directors added to the contrast of this memorable concert, with the more laid back casual approach of John Beare the Launceston Musical Director to the more exuberant and enthusiastic one of Dr David Knight the Casterbridge Musical Director.

With the evening interspersed in either half with the entertaining and superb piano duets played by Jane Jenkins and David Knight, these helped to enrich what was indeed a wonderful night of musical entertainment.

“The strong do what they can: the weak what they must ”

Jean
Lang

Wars which are fought elsewhere are often forgotten. In 1971 there was civil war in Pakistan which stopped when India intervened on the side of East Pakistan and out of that civil war Bangladesh was created. For many of those who remained in Pakistan this was failure.

Many in Pakistan had moved from India at the time of partition in 1948 and they had created Pakistan as a nation to protect a minority who were at risk. But Pakistan had its own minority, the Bengalis “minimised and marginalised both politically and economically” and in the end that minority demanded the same rights and representation as the majority and when their demands were rejected they saw a future only in further partition. The civil war that led to that partition forms the backstory to “Kartography” a novel by Kamila Shamsie.

Karim and Raheen are the much loved children of two couples who are close friends living in Karachi. In 1986 their lives start to unravel as the violence and corruption in the city grows and the father of Karim decides to leave the country for London. But it is not only geography which creates distance between the friends but the gradually unfolding history of their parents. The children have always known that their parents had originally been engaged not to one another but to the other parent in the foursome but the circumstances which lead to the change of partners in 1971 lies in shadow.

Karim’s mother is a Bengali who although having lived in Karachi all her life found herself treated as an outcast at the time of the civil war and her fiancée’s defence of her is

at the heart of the break between them. For the children a generation later in 1994, returning to Karachi after education in the States and London, they have to deal with the endemic corruption which attempts to solve every sort of problem by money and violence as well as coming to terms with the continuing ethnic and religious divides.

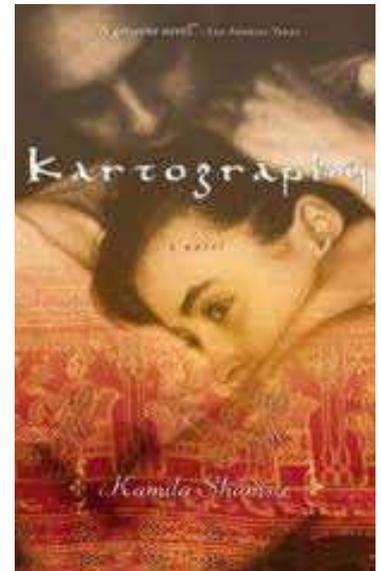
For the two of them, Karim and Raheen, while nominally Muslim, religion is of little importance but the constraints willingly adopted by one of their friends in a conservatively Muslim household creates tensions for them all. At the same time the truth concerning the events of 1971 has to be understood and the children have to learn both to live with and understand the decisions made by their parents.

The blight of ethnicity and the complications of affiliation not only to country but to race and religion are at the heart of this interesting novel by an author who herself divides her time between London and Karachi.

Kartography

By Kamila Shamsie

Bloomsbury Publishing
PLC



Editor’s Comment



It is always good to welcome a new person to the Dorchester Benefice and community. This month we are pleased to welcome Revd Fiona Hall.

However, I have a sneaky feeling a very pretty little furry dog called Amy may steal the limelight, and I’m sure we will hear more her about in the months ahead. Welcome to you both.