

Come What May



Paddy
King

One crisp winter's day, an artist sat down to paint a country scene. He set up his stool, arranged his easel and began to sketch the hills and fields that stretched out in front of him. A mouse cycled up to him, to enquire what he was up to. "Mr Artist, what are you doing?" "Little mouse, I am sketching this beautiful countryside. Now move out of the way so I can concentrate and get it right!" The mouse pattered off.

Later in the day he returned, to find the artist still hard at work. "Mr Artist, it's getting dark, why don't you come and stay with me tonight... you can finish in the morning!" The artist, seeing that the little mouse was right, grudgingly accepted, and headed off for a good night's sleep in the mouse's house.

The following morning, snow had fallen all around, covering the hills and the trees, sparkling magically in the sunlight. The artist cursed his luck. He screwed up yesterday's sketch into a little ball and threw it away. Then he began again... he set up his stool, arranged his easel and began to sketch the hills and the fields that stretched out in front of him, glistening in the crisp morning light. The day progressed, and he was pleased with his work. The little mouse sledged over to see how things were going. "It looks good, Mr Artist, but it's getting late, and you're not going to finish before it gets dark. Why don't you come and stay with me again tonight, you can finish in the morning!" The artist, seeing that the little mouse was again right, grudgingly accepted, and headed off for another good night's sleep in the mouse's house.

The following morning, the snow had melted. Spring had come, and new life was bursting forth among the hills and the fields. The artist angrily screwed up yesterday's sketch and stomped out to set up his stool, arrange his easel, and begin to draw the scene again. He lost himself in his work, capturing a wonderful likeness of the beautiful vista. The day swiftly passed, and the little mouse turned up on his roller skates to see how he was getting on. "It looks good, Mr Artist, but it's getting late, and you're not going to finish before it gets dark. Why don't you come and stay with me again tonight, you can finish in the morning!" The artist snarled at the mouse, "Get lost! Every time I agree to stay with you, something out here changes and I have to start all over again! I'll stay out here all night if I have to!" The little mouse headed home sadly.

In the middle of the night, it began to snow heavily. The little mouse noticed this, and, wrapping up warm, took rugs and a thermos flask of hot chocolate out to the artist, who was still perched on his stool, cursing the snow as it fell around him. The mouse greeted him cheerily. The artist frowned.

"Little mouse, why are you always so cheerful? You see me struggling and yet you potter about smiling happily!" The mouse paused, thinking hard. "Mr Artist, you spend all your time and energy trying to stop things from changing. I have a bicycle, a sledge, some rollerskates... even a canoe somewhere. I am prepared for whatever comes my way!"

Lent gives us all a chance to look at how we relate to a changing world, and to consider our relationship with the One who never changes.

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Dorchester Trefoil Guild

The Dorchester Trefoil Guild now meets once a month, normally in St George's Hall, Fordington, on the first Wednesday of the month in the afternoon. For those who don't know who we are, the Trefoil Guild is part of the Girl Guide movement for adults, with over 20,000 members in the UK, and 19 Guilds in Dorset. Dorchester Guild is over 50 years old; we meet regularly for social activities and to extend our interests and horizons, and have fun. We support local Girlguiding activities in the Dorchester area both regularly in the units and at special events. Most members have been Brownies, Guides, or Leaders, (or Scouts) - but if you haven't been a member before and are happy with aims of Guiding you are very welcome to join us.

Through the County Trefoil we have a choir and a walking group-they are keen 'geocachers', and we have several big meetings and outings a year, also opportunities for foreign travel. A County TG holiday is an annual event organised around the National AGM which is in Glasgow this year, and this is suitable for wheelchair users. We are always happy to welcome new members so why not visit us? Lifts can normally be arranged if needed, so contact us on 01305 261 673 if you would like to know more.

Angela Goldsworthy and Sue Allen, Joint Chairmen

Business as usual...Cloverleaf Flowers

Sally and I would like to thank all those who have supported us over the last few years. We have very much enjoyed all our work here and aim to maintain & even expand when I move from Dorchester.

We hope you will continue to give us your orders for all those special occasions that are enhanced by fresh flowers.

Our contact numbers continue to be – Sally 01305 263421 & Carol 07752170157



Dorset Fire and Rescue Service is recruiting

A new year, a new start. 2013 is going to be a good one, full of new challenges and new opportunities. If you have made a new year's resolution to support your community, get more involved and make where you live a safer place, we have the opportunity for you.

Become an on-call firefighter...

Firefighters across the county are looking for new recruits to join the on-call crew; do you think you can cut it? Local residents are being asked to consider a career as an on-call (retained) firefighter. 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year, 19 of Dorset's 26 fire stations are crewed by on-call personnel who live and work nearby.

Stations that are recruiting include:

Beaminster – Bere Regis – Blandford – Cranborne – Dorchester – Ferndown – Gillingham – Hamworthy – Maiden Newton – Poole – Portland – Shaftesbury – Sturminster Newton – Swanage – Verwood – Wareham

For more information about becoming an on-call firefighter please have a look at our website www.dorsetfire.gov.uk or call our Employee Resourcing team on 01305 252690.

Volunteering for Dorset Fire and Rescue
Since June 2009 DFRS has been running a successful volunteer scheme. Our volunteers play a vital role in increasing the capacity of DFRS' community safety

activities which will include home safety checks, events and representing the service. Supported by our Community Safety Task Teams our volunteers go out into the communities which they live in and conduct fire safety checks in the home. This will include fitting or replacing smoke alarms, giving advice on the use of candles, unattended cooking, electric blankets, overloading sockets, chimneys, Low Energy Light Bulbs and much more. They will also talk to the public about home and fire safety, attend events and encourage community participation on issues that directly affect them.

Volunteer Co-ordinator, Nicky Jenkins said: "The New Year is a great time to try something new or decide to make a difference in your community, we want you to help us achieve our resolution to make Dorset safer. There are many volunteering opportunities to get involved with all over the county. It really is about volunteers taking the fire service into their community and engaging the public on our behalf. If anyone would like to give back to the community and become a volunteer then please get in touch with me."

DFRS is always on the look out for compassionate, enthusiastic, reliable volunteers to join our team and propel the service forward. For more information about the service or to register your interest in being a volunteer please contact Nicky Jenkins on 01305 252698 or email volunteering@dorsetfire.gov.uk.

ST GEORGE'S FORDINGTON

MESSENGER



Church Correspondent: Margaret Morrissey 250366

Fiona
Hall

January and February have two very contrasting days. On January 27th we remember the holocausts that have taken place and pray that such abominations will never happen again. And in February we have Valentine's day where we celebrate commitment, romance and love. Two very contrasting days that remind us that humans have the capacity of doing horrendous things to each other, as well as amazing things like falling in love.

But it is not just in the big things that we have the choice to be creative or destructive. Even the little things we say or do can encourage and enable people to blossom and flourish and become fully the people God has created them to be. Or we can allow our traditions, superstitions and fears to put up barriers, put people down and close up communication between each other, and sometimes sadly between God.

Just as we have a choice to be creative or destructive in what we say and do, so we have a choice over what things we listen to, take to heart and live our lives by, and the Bible is full of good things.

One great verse to ponder on, which is found in the Benedictus and said every day at daily prayer, reminds us that because of what God has done we are, 'free to worship you (God) without fear, wholly acceptable in your sight.'

So, regardless of whatever limitations or faults we, or others think we may have, we need never fear God will turn us away, we are acceptable to God, and can worship without fear.

Ernie Coombes

Margaret
Morrissey

It is with a heavy heart I write about the death of Ernie Coombes. He was St George's living history – he joined the choir in October 1935 but was in Sunday school before that.

There was little Ernie did not know about the church building – the Fabric committee meeting will never be the

same again. He had known so many vicars – some almost before I was born.

Despite all Ernie's health problems no one has ever heard one word of complaint from him. He complained about our lack of expertise on minutes many times, a stickler for doing things correctly and by the book, but never about the suffering he had and the difficulties life had dealt him.

He adored his wife and family and was incredibly proud of his children, grandchildren and great grandchildren – he often talked of them to us all.

I am sure many of us have our own memories and stories, especially those who have known him all their life. Evelyn Kingman has spent 67 years in the choir with him and others over 50 years, so my memories are nothing in comparison, but I am thankful for the help and guidance from such a good man, especially in my role as church warden. He will be missed, often spoken of and long remembered.

Evelyn Kingman writes:
As organist I wish to pay tribute to Ernie on behalf of myself and all choir members. Ernie has been a very loyal and dedicated member of the choir for so many years – always cheerful with no excuses for his disability, in fact making jokes about it. He always backed me with whatever decision I made.



Ernie Coombes, 7 May 28–3 Jan 13

I have known Ernie since he was a small boy when he lived in York terrace with his parents. He will be greatly missed by all of us!

Altar flowers in January

13th January given by Julie Moffet for her brother Rev Peter Hall

20th January given by Graham Barter in memory of his beloved wife Pauline

27th January given by Yvonne Lee and family in memory of Lily Kingman, (Yvonne's Nan) , for what would have been her 99th birthday.

February

10th February given by Viv Ford for in memory of Ben for his birthday on 20th

A Choir Boy of St George's Visits the Palace

On the 25 October Richard Thornley was invited to Buckingham Palace to receive his CBE, awarded in the Queen's Birthday Honours List, presented by HRH Prince Charles, for UK.J. Relations & UK Business in Japan.



A Little TLC

A lady worked in a local government office. As part of her job she had to check through various accident report forms that had been received. One from the municipal swimming baths described how a little boy had bumped his head on the side of the pool. Under the heading of "Action Taken" the attendant had written: "Kissed Better".

Snow

Just to cheer things up my little Rocco was up at 6.a.m on the first morning of snow, out at 6.30 making a snowman in case it melted, then wanted to measure my garden snow to see if he had more in his.

Saturday I was challenged to my limit — four little ones on two sledges on a slope that ended on a road, my blood pressure soared to bursting point as children see no danger and old ladies over-estimate danger. Arriving home all in one piece they had a vote that Grandma was just the best fun, sort of made it okay. Especially as we had spent considerable time searching for my sister-in-law's lost gloves, only to have the teenager working in The Engine Room point out that they were in the hood of her coat!!

A Message to the Bishop

The person we would like Lord
To fill our Rector's place
Should be young enough to whizz around
With venerable grace
His visiting must be full time
To round up all his flock
But he must be available
Of course, all round the clock
He must be good with children
And a sage to the old folk
His calming bedside manner
No illness will provoke
He should be kind to animals
And teach what we should know,
In sermons so attractive, that everyone will go
His Leadership will be inspired-
(In a democratic way)
Provided that the PCC
Can always have their say
He'll give more funds to Missions
And renew the Church hall floor
But not offend parishioners by asking them for more
What's that? The Angel Gabriel has got a job elsewhere?
No doubt, My Lord, you'll send us the next best you can
spare.

P.L.G.B — Provided by Julie Moffat

The News Hound - The Vicar's Dog



On really cold and frosty mornings I love to roll around on my back zig-zagging my way across the frosty grass like a conger eel. Then I get up and race around like a pocket rocket. My human on these mornings though stands still with her hands in her pockets all muffled up to her nose, sleepily admiring the sunrise.

Others appear to enjoy Highland flings and haggis chasing once in a while. Each to their own is what I think, we may do it differently, but we are still all enjoying God's amazing creation. Which reminds me of that hymn "Oh Lord my God, when I in awesome wonder, consider all the works thy hand hath made..." Oh, and if anyone spots that haggis could they please let me know, as I haven't managed to get sight, sniff or taste of it yet!

St Mary the Virgin The Open Door

Church Correspondent: Canon Harold Stephens



Round-up from St. Mary's

Harold
Stephens

December started out disappointingly as we were unable to begin work with the Junior Choir. We plan to bring this development alive at some stage

in the Spring – more when this is confirmed.

Toy Service 9th December: we were able to send more than 4 sacks of toys to the Women's refuge here and in Poole after the special offerings of toys at the Mass on 9th December. Many thanks once again!

Carol Service "Journeying to the heart of Christmas":

On 16th December this evening service was well-attended and explored in word, music and prayer the significance of Christmas. Many thanks to Robert Potter, Teresa Stewart-Sykes and Geoff Greenhough who worked so hard on this.

Crib and Christingle Service: our annual children's service for Christmas Eve had even more people attending than ever. More than £300 was raised for the Children's Society at the service. Thanks to Teresa Stewart-Sykes who organised the service this year.

The Senior Club: had a great Christmas Lunch on Portland with a large number attending.

The Week of Prayer for Christian Unity: The annual united service was held at St. Mary's on 20th January. The speaker was Rev Clare Downing (Moderator of the United Reformed Church Wessex Synod).

Happening at St. Mary's in February

We welcome the Bishop of Salisbury, Rt Rev Nicholas Holtham, to St. Mary's on Sunday evening, 3rd February (Feast of the Presentation – Candlemas). He will attend the Taizé service and speak. The Taizé service marks its 20th anniversary this year. It continues to be well-supported attracting people from many different churches.

Benefice service at St. Mary's: 10th February, 10 a.m. This is the final service of the Rector and is the main service for all churches of Dorchester and the Winterbournes and Compton Valence that morning.



More details about the farewell events for the Rector, Harold Stephens are found elsewhere in this magazine.

Other events:

- Saturday 9th 7 p.m. the "Last Supper" – farewell to the Rector – dinner in St. Mary's Hall
- Sunday 10th 10 a.m. Benefice Service and farewell to Harold and Carol Stephens
- Wednesday 13th Ash Wednesday: 7.30 p.m. Sung Mass with imposition of Ashes.
- Monday 18th St. Mary's Senior Club, 2.30 p.m. – talk by Antonia Cook about a Care Home.

Do not forget that:

The choir practices each Friday at 7 p.m. in the Choir Vestry or Church.

There is Christian Meditation in the Blessed Sacrament Chapel each Wednesday at 5 p.m. – entrance through the "Priest's Door" in Edward Road.

For your prayers

Baptised at St. Mary's:
Rosie Alice Austin (29th December)

Those whose funerals took place at St. Mary's:
David Fry (December 21st)
Lillian Legge (24th December at Cemetery Chapel)
Frederick Gray (16th January)
Sybilla Williams (18th January at Winterborne Monkton)
David Boulter, (30th January)

And for our fellow Christian brothers and sisters in the Sudan, in Uganda and in Brazil.

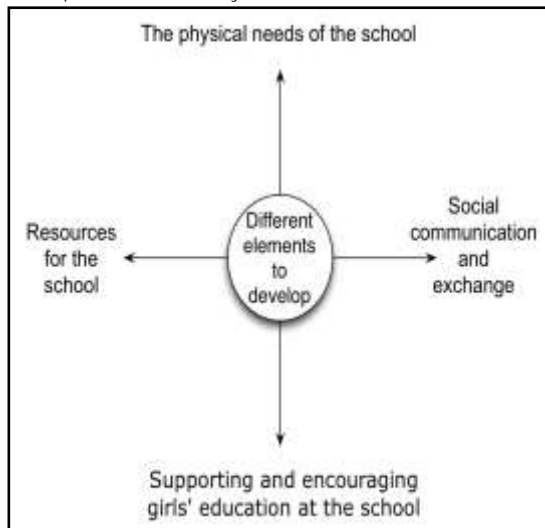
St Mary the Virgin



Mission and Overseas Support

Continuing from the short report on this in the last magazine, the working group trying to establish a link with Rugando in Uganda has begun to develop ideas for the short and longer term of this project. We hope that the link will be able to develop in several ways, as shown in the diagram below.

We especially wish to focus on the village's Church school -not just its material needs but also in encouraging the education of girls who, otherwise, might not be sent to school for economic reasons.



Already a package "All about St. Mary's and Dorchester" has been sent out to the village as a response to the photos, emails and letters we have received.

For more about this please speak to the leaders of DORCAS Mothers Union or Christine and Brian Griffin or Ellie Stephens at St. Mary's.

And Finally

From the 10th February the Rector (Harold) will no longer be in post.
General enquiries about St. Mary's to Adrian Downton, Church warden (264663)
Enquiries about baptisms and weddings to Rev Rosemary Bassett (262615)
Enquiries about baptisms to Rev Paddy King (267641)
All other enquiries to the Parish Office (250719)

BENEFICE NEWS



A Pilgrimage of Departure

Harold
Stephens

This month sees my final services in Dorchester as I now move to retirement from parish ministry. To mark the ending of my ministry here I invite you to join me on “A Pilgrimage of Departure”.

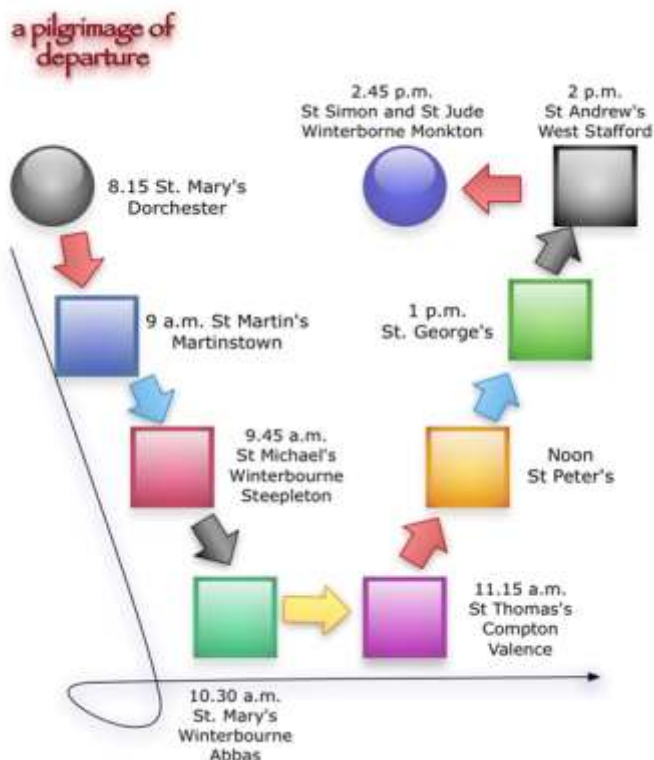
invite you to join me on “A Pilgrimage of Departure”.

a pilgrimage of
departure

Travelling the Benefices – 8th February

On Friday 8th February you are invited to join Harold Stephens, The Team Rector, on a ‘pilgrimage of departure’ around the 2 Benefices – Dorchester and the Winterbournes and Compton Valence. At each stopping point – the parish churches – there will be a reflection, a reading, prayers and (depending on numbers) singing.

Please do come for the whole journey – we shall go by car – or simply meet up at the time[s] shown at the churches of your choice. The programme and timings are as shown on the chart below.



This mirrors my first day in Dorchester when I made a pilgrimage by foot to all 5 churches of the Benefice. This new pilgrimage must be done by vehicle as we now include the Winterbournes and Compton Valence as part of my overall responsibilities.



Benefices Service – 10th February

Sunday 10th February, 10 a.m., at St. Mary's Dorchester. This is the second part of this “Pilgrimage of Departure” when we may share together in the Eucharist and be reminded and strengthened of and in our call to respond to Christ. All are warmly invited to attend. There will be refreshments served at the end of the service.

Farewell and thanks for ...

It's been a great 5 ½ years in Dorchester and now Carol and I must bid you all farewell. So thanks for all the things that have made this such a special place to be. Coming to Dorchester as Team Rector was a daunting prospect – at the time I worked in a much smaller and rural set of parishes in Wiltshire. From the very start people proved welcoming, supportive and determined that the Anglican Church in our community should thrive in order that our community may be served.

The diversity of ministry in Dorchester is incredible and we have so many people to thank who make the work of the church present for so many different groups and individuals. A day in Dorchester for myself could be as diverse as sharing coffee with police staff followed by a tour of the market, leading act of collective worship in one of our schools and then visiting in hospital or someone's home. There has been a lot of adult teaching and preparing people for baptisms, confirmation, marriage and more. Above all a priest has the privilege of presiding at the Eucharist and sharing with the people of God both sacrament and Word.

As Carol and I prepare to move away (to Wiltshire) we shall never be able to get Dorchester “out of our bones”! So much has made this a very special place to live and to minister.

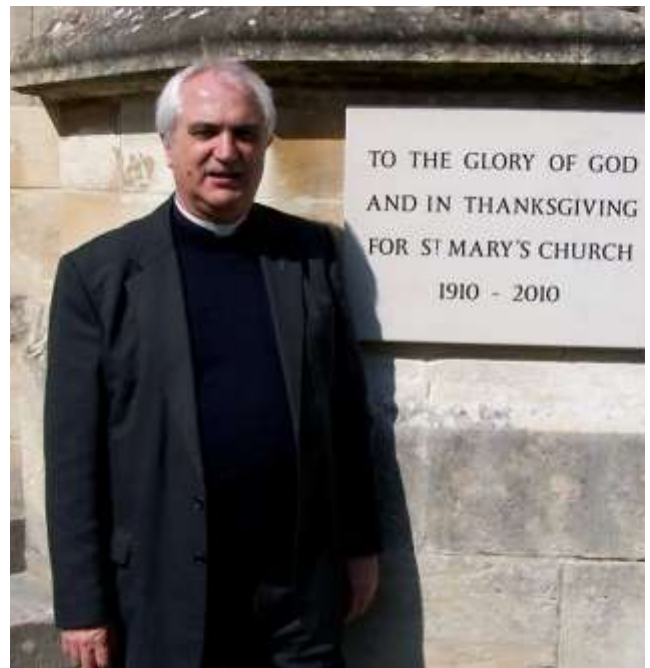
But retirement is not (as someone suggested) just the preparation for the Care Home. Retirement will allow Carol and I to take a pause and then to continue our journey through life recognising that change is not just inevitable, it is desirable.

Pray now for those involved in the process of finding a new Team Rector for Dorchester and I know he or she will be warmly welcomed and well-supported.

We look forward to seeing you at our final service – 10 a.m. February 10th at St. Mary's. Also, if you are able, join the "Pilgrimage of departure" on Friday 8th.



How do you see the future?



Lent 2013 in the Benefice of Dorchester

Details also in booklets in all churches including week by week course/events diary

Ash Wednesday, 13th February

with ashing

10am Holy Communion at St George's

7pm Taizé service at St Peter's

7.30pm Sung Mass at St Mary's

Lent Lunches

12noon-1.30pm

Friday 22nd February @ St Mary's

Friday 1st March @ St Peter's*

Friday 8th March @ West Stafford Village Hall

Friday 15th March @ St George's

Friday 22nd March @ Martinstown Hall 1230

**after Women's World Day of Prayer service 1030am*

Lectio Divina

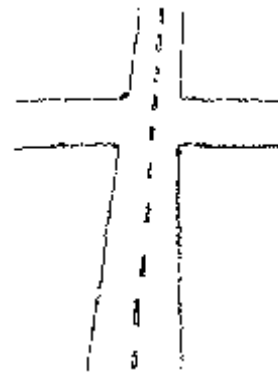
Listening to the Bible through silence, contemplation, the Holy Spirit. During Lent we will begin by listening to the Beatitudes and during the following weeks we will be hearing biblical passages that reflect a particular beatitude. We would love it if you could join us on our journey.

Venue: 10 South Walks Road

Time: 7.30pm

Dates: 18th, 25th February; 4th, 11th and 18th March

On the 25th March we will be holding a Lectio Eucharist at St. Mary's Church at 7.30pm. Everybody is welcome. Ring Rev. Jo Lacy-Smith on 01305 266721 if you want some more information. Thank you.



The Lent Course—Life Attitudes

The aim of this course is to explore the Beatitudes, which encapsulate the teaching of Jesus. Jesus himself lived out the Beatitudes in his earthly life and called his followers to do the same. This five-session group study course encourages Christians to examine their lifestyle in the light of Jesus' radical teaching and to live out these kingdom values – now.

Mondays 7pm St George's Vicarage

Fridays 1.30pm-3pm St Peter's Hall

Course sessions:

1. Living well: introducing the Beatitudes
2. Living openly: Matthew 5.3-4
3. Living purposefully: Matthew 5.5-6
4. Living lovingly: Matthew 5.7-8
5. Living differently: Matthew 5.9-10 and summary of the course

Rev Vicky Thurtell & Rev Fiona Hall

Poetry in Lent

Tuesday 26th February 2.30pm St George's Church Hall
Tuesday 19th March 7.30pm The Quiet Space, Poundbury

Come and listen or choose one or two poems to share with the group. Poems can be well known classics or lesser known gems which touch or challenge you or maybe relate in some way to the season of Lent. If possible bring several copies of your choice so all are able to reflect on the poems. Each session will finish with a shortened form of Evening or Night Prayer.

"But it isn't easy," said Pooh. "Because Poetry and Hums aren't things which you get, they're things which get you. And all you can do is to go where they can find you."

— A.A. Milne, *The House at Pooh Corner*

Rev Dr Jane Culliford

The Stations of the Cross during Lent

Tuesdays, 6pm at St Mary's starting on Tuesday 19th February

The Stations of the Cross have formed part of Christian devotion at Passiontide for many centuries because they enable us to engage actively with the path of suffering walked by Jesus. They originated when early Christians visited Jerusalem and wanted to follow literally in the footsteps of Jesus, tracing the path from Pilate's house to Calvary. They would pause for prayer and devotion at various points. Eventually those pilgrims brought the practice back to their home countries and ever since then Christians of differing traditions have used this form of devotion.

In the late 14th century the Franciscans were given the responsibility for the holy places of Jerusalem and they erected tableaux to aid the devotion of the visitors. These kinds of images are now commonplace inside, and occasionally outside, churches.

Each Tuesday in Lent at 6 p.m. in St. Mary's we shall **"Walk the Way"** using the Stations. A different leader each week will mean different ways of reflecting on and responding to each station. Easy to follow, profoundly biblical and a way of entering into "the Way" with body, mind and spirit.



Christian Meditation—Contemplative Reflection and Silence

Wednesdays in Lent - 5 p.m. at St Mary's
& at the Quiet Space at 7.30pm on Thursdays 14th & 28th February & 14th March.

An invitation to 'come and be' with others in the stillness, silence and simplicity of contemplative prayer. 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.

The Meditation Group will meet every Wednesday at 5pm in the Chapel in St Mary's & also in the Quiet Space; why not join us during this Lent. The 40 mins meeting includes quiet music, a short taped talk on meditation and 20 minutes of silence.

Rev Rosemary Bassett

Lent Film Group

The Lent Film Group will meet on Wednesdays at 10 Treves Road, at 6.30pm for a prompt 7pm start, beginning on the 20th February. Films will be focused (loosely) around the theme of the Beatitudes. Please contact Rev Paddy King (267641) for more details.

Young Persons' workshop

For 8-12 years olds at St George's Church on Wednesday 20 February. 0930 – 1615. For further information see church notices or contact Allen Knott (267217).

ST PETER'S

High West Street • Dorchester

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



For your diary

Sunday 3rd Feb – Candlemas
9am BCP Communion
10:30am Sunday Eucharist with guest preacher *Revd Charlie Allen* – *i/c curates and ordinands for the Diocese of Salisbury*

Sunday 10th February – Sunday before LENT
9am Said Eucharist
[NB no 103:0am service because there is a Benefice service at St Mary's 10am – farewell to Team Rector Harold Stephens]
6:30pm Sung Evensong

Ash Wednesday 13th February
7pm Taizé Service with ashing

Sunday 17th February – LENT 1
9am BCP Communion
10:30am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 24th February – LENT 2
9am BCP Communion
10:30am Sung Eucharist

Friday 1st March
10:30am Women's World Day of Prayer Service at St Peter's followed by
12noon Lent Lunch..

Sunday 3rd March – LENT 3
9am BCP Communion
10:30am Sung Eucharist
Rt Revd Dr Edward Condry Bishop of Ramsbury

Sunday 10th March – Mothering Sunday
9am Said Communion
10:30am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 17th March – St Patrick
10:30am Sung Eucharist
Thomas Hardy Chapel Choir
Mass setting – Schubert in G

Confirmation

Vicky
Thurtell

There are a few people from St Peter's preparing for confirmation at the moment – and we have a dozen places booked for the service at Salisbury

Cathedral on Saturday 11th May at 6pm.

If you or one of your family would like to consider being confirmed by the Bishops at that service –including any who receive communion before confirmation or would like to find out more – please contact me vickythurtell@gmail.com or on 01305 268767. Thank you. If you would like to attend the service to support the candidates then please put the date in your diary – further details in the next month or two...

Church Cleaning

Church Cleaning will take place on Saturday 2nd February and Saturday 2nd March 9.30am-10.30am. Thank you.

Electoral Roll

2013 is the year (every 6 years) for the Electoral Roll to be completely renewed so please look out for instructions re: remaining on/leaving the roll or for putting your name on it if you have not already done so. In the light of recent laity influence on General Synod I thought you might like to ponder this:

What difference does it make? *[from a CofE website]*
By enrolling you become a voting member of the Church of England and so help to ensure that all the synodical councils of the Church – the parochial church council, the deanery synod, the diocesan synod, and the General Synod – are fully representative of its members... You can make a difference!

A Christmas Service at Edgcumbe Manor

Minna
St Aubyn

The days scarcely seem to have woken up before they are closing down for the night. The church calendar has taken us into Epiphany now that the Christmas festivities are over and the warm memories are fading, but recording one particular service in Advent may help to life the spirits.

Shortly before Christmas Vicky, Alison Whiting, Maureen and Gordon Shaw, and I, offered Holy Communion to residents at Edgcumbe Manor. Matthew, Vicky's son, had kindly offered to accompany our carol singing on the piano. We sat in tight rows, making room for relatives, late comers, and wheelchairs. Some stood, most sat.

Vicky led the service, and we sang the most well-known carols. Somehow, this service made them fresh and the simple beliefs in each line meant so much.

Maureen read one of her favourite prayers, emphasising that we are never too old to serve God, in the way he leads us. I read Thomas Hardy's well known poem 'The Oxen'. Just before the service I whispered to Vicky my reservations about reading a Hardy poem as I have always understood he was an agnostic. "I'm not sure about that," said Vicky. It would be nice to think he protested too much.

After the service, everyone socialised in that peculiarly intimate way one does after hearing

and speaking God's words. The sharing of our familiar ritual had been uplifting. Matthew stayed on, circulating easily and with charm. And in time-honoured fashion we all successfully balanced plates of Maureen's star-crossed mince pies and wickedly rich brandy butter, with a cup and saucer, and napkin. We talked about Christmases past, residents who had died during the year, their wives and husbands remembering happy times and the funeral details.

Maybe there were some that morning whose faith was shaky or who had no faith, but perhaps everyone there felt comforted by the simplicity of this informal and inclusive service. To paraphrase Thomas Hardy: 'I am hoping so.'

Minna St Aubyn, Lay Pastoral Assistant at St Peter's



Women's World Day of Prayer

Penny
Blaby

Friday 1st March 2013

St. Peter's Church 10.30am
The Quiet Space 7.30pm

Women's World Day of Prayer is not just for women! It is a chance for everyone to come together to pray for women's needs across the world. This global ecumenical movement started 126 years ago in Canada and USA when a Christian woman decided to gather a group of friends to pray for the needs of immigrant women living in dreadful slums in abject poverty. From this small beginning has come an international, interdenominational service which spans the globe.

From Tonga – on the Eastern side of the International Date Line – at dawn, westwards around the world, Christians pray the same service, translated into 60 languages and 1000 dialects, in 170 countries, the last being Samoa – on the Western side of the Date Line. This

wave of prayer takes a different theme each year, chosen by a different country. Last year the people of Malaysia highlighted justice, with their theme of "Let Justice Prevail". This year France has put together a service entitled, "I was a Stranger and You welcomed me". Every year the congregations are invited to reflect on issues relevant to women in our world today. In many, many countries women are encouraged to know that they are remembered in our prayers.

Please come and add your prayers to what will be a very moving service. I have been supporting WWDP for many years, both here in England, in Japan and in Hong Kong. It is a privilege to be a part of something that literally is happening all over the world on the same day.

There will be a Coffee Morning to raise funds for WWDP at The United Reform Church on Saturday 9th February 10am – 12.30pm.

St Andrew's Church West Stafford

Church Correspondent: Revd Jane Culliford



Dates for February

3 rd February	Candlemas 10am Parish Communion
8 th February	2pm Pilgrimage of Departure Farewell to the Team Rector Canon Harold Stephens
10 th February	10am Benefice Service St Mary's Church Edward Rd
17 th February	First Sunday of Lent 10am Parish Communion
24 th February	9am Holy Communion 10am Come and Worship
4 th March	10am Parish Communion

Farewell to Our Team Rector

When Revd Harold Stephens became Team Rector in October 2007 there was of course a big licensing service, but Harold also made a Pilgrimage of Arrival. He began at St Andrew's Church in West Stafford with prayers and a reading and then walked across the fields to Dorchester to visit schools and the other churches in the team continuing prayers and readings. Some people walked with him and some joined him along the way.

Now a Canon, Harold will be in West Stafford again on 8th February at 2pm when again there will be prayers and a reading as part of his Pilgrimage of Departure. This time he needs to use his car to travel around the benefice as he is including churches in the Winterbourne Valley and Compton Valence. We shall pray with him and wish him well in his retirement.

In his time in Dorchester, Harold has overseen St Andrew's Church ceasing to have its own PCC as it became part of the Parish of Dorchester and West Stafford alongside the 3 town churches but also part of the wider Dorchester Benefice.

He has been a source of support and encouragement to the church in West Stafford as to the other village churches as well as to the churches in town, he will be missed and we thank him for all he has done.

Winter Visitors

There are many visitors to St Andrew's church which is open throughout the week during daylight hours. Some visit the church because of its link with Thomas Hardy while others are cyclists who stop rather than speeding past the church – a silent hazard to those getting to church on those Sundays when the weather is fine!

From the visitor's book, we know some come because of family connections to the church and others come as part of a treasure hunt and we know some come to find a quiet place to reflect and pray.

Most visitors come in the summer but there are always a trickle who visit in the winter months. Not all visitors sign the visitor's book, but it is interesting to read all the places near and far from which they have come and read their comments.

Most who do write in the book remark on the beauty of the church or how peaceful it is or perhaps both. However a visitor last month wrote 'OMG Lush x' – a good sign that we have younger visitors and the church in West Stafford is part of the age of text speak!

Hearing Loop

A hearing loop has now been installed in the church thanks to a most generous gift from Mr Tony Bradshaw. It has been given in memory of his late wife Christine, a lovely cheerful person who was born at the Wise Man inn in West Stafford and attended the church regularly and who played the organ at St Andrew's as she also did at the church at Broadmayne.

This lasting memorial will continue to benefit all those who have a hearing loss and need to use a hearing aid.

Snowdrops

The church yard is a mass of snow drops which can be seen more clearly because of all the hard work clearing and tidying in the summer and autumn. This may encourage us to continue this work in 2013!

St Simon & St Jude

Winterborne Monkton



Crib service & Carol Service

Ursula
Norman

Once more the elements did their worst! But 9 children with their parents waded through the mud and water on the Church Path on Saturday 7th

December for our Annual Crib service, ably presided over by Harold. The fact that at least one child got water in his wellies seemed to add to the general excitement of the event, which after the very simple service, included the children decorating and lighting up the Christmas tree, and receiving little presents.

The following day, a be-wellied congregation assembled for our Carol service – sadly without a choir, but with Harold at the organ, and presided over by The Very Reverend Alan Woods, we sang our hearts out, and afterwards munched our way through masses of mince pies accompanied by mulled wine. Christmas had come to Monkton!

Remembering Monkton School in the 30's

Doris
Matthews

I attended Monkton School in 1932 - 1935 living in Ashton. I walked to school every day with Gordon Derek and Mary Baker and Jim Davey. We sometimes had flooded roads and deep snow. I remember on one occasion we

had a thunderstorm, torrential rain and it washed the soil down on to the road. It was so deep Mr Baker came to fetch us from school with a horse and dung –put which we thought was great.

Miss Hammett was the teacher, helped by Miss Welch who taught the infants. The classroom was divided into infants one side and juniors the other. We did reading, writing arithmetic and did our times tables out loud. We did PE sometimes – Miss Grimwood the PE instructor from Dorchester would come and take us. The doctor, dentist and nurse came occasionally. Mr Le Seur was the school inspector to make sure we were all attending school. Miss Welch left and for a while was replaced by Miss Matthews (later to become my sister-in-law).

Miss Hammett was a good teacher. If we did good work we would get H.P. breakfast biscuits. We used to take flowers for her mum who was a lovely lady and she always gave us one of those lovely biscuits on Fridays. Miss Hammett often brought a big box of gooseberry Newbury fruits: we all got one but if anyone did some good work they got two. Being the eldest in class and being able to knit I used to do knitting for Miss Hammett in some

lessons. It was either vests in K2 P2 and they were very long or bottle green jumpers in stocking stitch on very fine needles. It used to get very boring. After Dora Matthews left, Jean Shave came for a time as infant teacher. She used to be a pupil at the school.

Children came from Bayard, Herrington, Higher Came, also Maiden Castle Cottages. They came by bus then the bus took the older children to Maud Road School and Colliton Street Boys School.

Mr Elworthy used to visit us sometimes and bring his little dog. On some special days we used to go to church then we would have half a day off. Sometimes a friend of Miss Hammett's came to school and told us a story then we had to write it in our own words and he gave a sixpence to the writer of the best story which was a lot of money to us so we worked quite hard.

We used to have a flag day – if I remember correctly it was for playing fields. We collected around the village. We had two lobbies, the boys round the back, the girls round the front. We had an enamel bowl and jug on a stand with cold water to wash our hands. If we fell down Miss Hammett used Friars Balsam to bathe our wounds – it seemed to do the trick.

Doris Matthews (nee Miles)

News from the Winterbournes

John
Good

THE 2013 PILGRIMAGE

There are now 26 people booked for the 9-15 Pilgrimage to Northumbria. If you would like to join us, there are standard rooms available (all ensuite now booked) at £485. Contact Preb. John Good.

QUIET DAY

Saturday 16 March has been booked at Hilfield Friary 10.00-15.30.

The Day includes Community Eucharist, and Lunch, a morning address, and an afternoon session on Easter and its ceremonies. All of course voluntary - and there is plenty of space for silence and reflection.

Please book your place with Preb. John Good and enclose a cheque for £12 to "The Winterbournes PCC", or cash.

The Rectory, Martinstown, Dorchester DT2 9JS. 01308 889466. johngood.martinstown@hotmail.co.uk



CHURCHES TOGETHER DORCHESTER

Compiled by
Val Potter
264416

The end is nigh. Or is it?

John & Mary
Foskett

An important and challenging meal drew people from local churches and other faith communities to consider how to respond to climate change.

The meal, sourced locally, was held in St George's Church Hall in January, organised by the Dorchester Churches Ecology Group. Rabbi Neil Amswych from Bournemouth Reform Synagogue is a scientist as well as a theologian, who convinced us of the growing body of evidence, of which the current heat wave in Australia is the most immediate example of what we are doing to our earth.

The end is nigh. For whom? The end could be nigh for two thirds of the planet's animal life, including human beings, and vast areas of the land we currently depend upon for food and water. If



Inter-faith dialogue: Rabbi Neil Amswych with Revd John Good of Martinstown

climate change gets no worse (and that is an optimistic expectation), some of us in Europe, Americas, China and Japan will survive, but our lives will be totally changed and other peoples will migrate, demanding to share our resources. The Rabbi delivered this apocalyptic message with honesty and humour and had empathy for our shocked reactions. He encouraged us to work together in responding to the horror facing us.

The Big Green Believers Agreement offers us a way to live more simply and ecologically so that others can simply live. Together we can begin to change our way of life: transport, consumption, biodiversity, waste, buildings (including our Churches, Synagogues, Mosques and Temples), food, water and social justice. The Agreement is displayed in St Mary's Church, open daily. We hope that people of all religions and none can join in this campaign together. The Agreement is available from Email.idea@gmail.com or Tel: 07958 076550.

Bishop Nicholas Holtam (right) responded to the Rabbi's call and reminded us that after World War II, people found common ground in acting together. He and Neil thanked Rosie and Cristobel, the only children present. Will they be, and can we let them be, the children of Isaiah's prophecy?



*The wolf shall dwell with the lamb,
The leopard shall lie down with the kid,
And the calf and the lion, and the fatling together,
And a little child shall lead them. (Isaiah 11:6)*

Tax Justice

Christian Aid supporters met Oliver Letwin to share their concerns about how tax avoidance by major companies is denying much needed revenue to countries in the developing world. The response was encouraging as the government wants to close loopholes so that our own country can benefit as well. Britain will chair the G8 meeting in June and this is an opportunity to press for international agreement on greater transparency about taxes paid by large corporations. We were told that keeping up the campaigning and pressure does make a difference.

Lent Lunches

Lent Lunches will run every Wednesday from 13 February until Easter in the United Church Hall. Exceptional value for money at £5. All profits go to Christian Aid.

The Quiet Space

Work on the garden has progressed well despite bad weather. The trustees and companions will meet over a tea to say thank you to Harold Stephens for all his hard work as Chair, as the project has developed and come to fruition.

Bill
North

I recently attended a one-day conference in Bristol on ethical investment. This is about investing one's money where it can do the most good or the least harm, at the same time as giving a reasonably safe return. There are a number of matters to consider, depending on your personal circumstances and preferences.

'Ethical investment' usually means investing in funds which avoid such things as armaments, alcohol, tobacco, pornography, and animal experimentation. However some funds have a wide spread, and may invest a small proportion of their money in fields you find objectionable. Most stockbrokers will tailor your investment to your demands and provide a suitable 'ethical portfolio'.

On the more positive side you can deliberately choose to invest your money where you know it is doing good – in 'clean energy', or Fair Trade, or organic farming, for example. Or you could invest in a family business or some exciting new venture you want to support. But you need to be aware that these may bring a smaller rate of interest. In the worst case you could lose all your money, and you must decide how much you are prepared to lose.

In all cases you need to do thorough research, and probably consult an expert. But not all 'independent

financial advisers' are all that independent. There are some websites which will give you useful information. You could try www.knowwhereyourmoneygoes.co.uk (Triodos Bank) or www.shared-interest.com for investing in Fair Trade. You can open a Shared Interest account for as little as £100.

You may say you have no money to invest; but the biggest investment many people ever make is their pension. If you do not know where your pension is invested you can find out, and if you are not happy you can probably get it changed (see Pensions Advisory Service).

An article in the Guardian lists ten points to be aware of when considering ethical investments:

1. Consider what you mean by ethical
2. Do your research
3. Find an ethical IFA (Independent financial adviser)
4. Consider your attitude to risk
5. Use your tax breaks
6. Choose an ethical pension
7. Choose your manager carefully
8. Be prepared for smaller returns
9. But remember performance does matter
10. Be consistent (if you shop in Tesco there is little point shunning the supermarket giants on ethical grounds when drawing up your investment portfolio).

“Divorced, Beheaded, Survived ”

Jean
Lang

Wolf Hall won the 2009 Man Booker Prize for its writer Hilary Mantel. The second in a trilogy is *Bring up the Bodies* (which also won the Man Booker prize, this time in 2012) and it follows further the career of

Thomas Cromwell covering the period between September 1535 and the summer of 1536.

Wolf Hall charted the rise of Thomas Cromwell and succeeded in establishing him as a sympathetic man in private life while able to be the King’s “fixer” in public. Cromwell comes to King Henry VIII’s attention as a servant in the house of the Cardinal and Lord Chancellor, Wolsey. He plays a central role in enabling the King to set aside his wife Katherine and substitute the new Queen, Anne.

The second volume of the trilogy starts with the rumours circling around the Queen, who while producing a second daughter for the King, has failed to provide a son and heir. Cromwell has to negotiate his way through the changes in the King’s view of his second wife and come up with the evidence which will enable the King to get rid of her and allow him, with a clear conscience, to marry his third wife Jane Seymour.

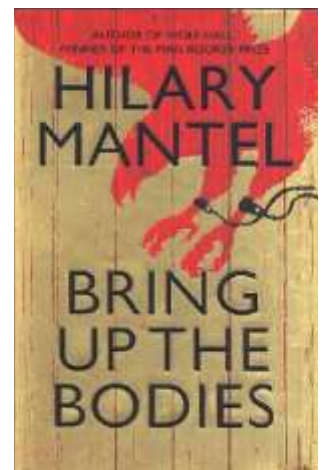
Bring up the Bodies is a much shorter novel than its predecessor, covering as it does less than two years of history. However it is just as (if not more) accomplished. The story of Anne Boleyn is well known and so there is no surprise in the plot itself: the reader knows from the beginning what the end will be. This does not matter: the skill lies in how the end is reached and what we learn of the motives of those involved. As Hilary Mantel writes in her Author’s Note she is writing to show how “...a few crucial weeks might have looked from Thomas Cromwell’s point of view. I am not claiming authority for my version; I am making the reader a proposal, an offer.”

Thomas Cromwell continues to be the pivot around which everything turns. His life away from Court in his house at Austin Friars in London with his nephew, adopted son and son but without wife or daughters is a sensitive counterpoint to his public and scheming Court existence. Hilary Mantel writes about Cromwell, his life and associates making them lively and rounded – she puts flesh on the foot notes of history such as Thomas Wriothesley (“Call-me Risley”) and Richard Riche as well as colour into the lives of those who are known only as part of the political history of the reign of Henry VIII.

Henry, himself, now 44, is a spoilt adolescent masquerading in grown up clothes. He is charming and terrifying at the same time, he is clever and childish, he is playboy and ruler. Cromwell can manage him – just – but we are aware, as is Cromwell, that as the King’s requirements change so the facts change behind them and that one day Cromwell may not be able to hide inconvenient truths from his King. At the end of this book Cromwell is at his most powerful and slightly to his own amusement he ceases to be plain Mr Secretary Cromwell and is advanced to Baron Cromwell of Wimbledon!

The third volume will take us to the end of Cromwell’s life – and although the history is well known Hilary Mantel’s great skill lies in giving depth, emotion and feeling to those happenings which would otherwise remain as bare facts without any hinterland.

Bring Up the Bodies
By Hilary Mantel
(Fourth Estate)



Editor’s Comment

How years fly. Two years ago at this time I was nervously waiting for the first edition of the magazine under my editorship.

I blinked and now my third year begins – my resolution this year not to worry. To remember the saying, today is the day I worried about yesterday and it’s fine. Easier said than done, but faith and trust and a fair wind and we are off for another year with Lucy Connelly our super IT lady. Life is good. I still think of Dominic and wish him well with training for priesthood. We hope to meet mostly with your approval in 2013.

