

April Fool?



Vicky
Thurtell

"We are fools for Christ's sake, but ye are wise in Christ; we are weak, but ye are strong; ye are honourable, but we are despised." 1 Corinthians 4: 10

A friend at university – April was her name and what a fool! – having done little work in three years, entrusted her performance in the theology finals to the power of the Holy Spirit. Some would argue that her consequent failure to impress the examiners was God's intention for her and would brand her a courageous Holy Fool. Alternatively we could say that she was naïve and should have put in at least a bit of effort.

As students prepare to return to school, college and university after the Easter vacation, there will be many whose attention and concern will soon be turned towards examinations... SATs / GCSE / AS / A2 / BTEC / IB / finals... our young people and educational establishments are measured and compared using point scores, league tables and value-added; the competition is rife.

The good news is that there is no evidence to suggest that God measures us by our exam results. We could view the Almighty as a supportive parent, loving us for what we are; not for what we achieve in relation to others. And yet, like a good parent or a good teacher surely the ultimate marker is looking to each disciple to be the best we can be in all that is good, in all we are drawn to do, according to our abilities and circumstances.

As we bask in this joyful Eastertide let us pray that in the power of the Holy Spirit to which my undergraduate friend negated her cognitive responsibilities, we may be empowered into right action in the knowledge of God's unconditional love.

April was not fooled for too long. She did not despair but acknowledged that she had some work to do in order to realise her God-given potential. She learned her lesson and later gained her theology degree – to become a vicar somewhere... who knows?

A Message from Trading Standards

In spring 2012, Dorset County Council's trading standards service received a call from the police about a gentleman in his 70's who was having some work done on his roof. The gentleman, known as Mr X, had received a knock on his door from a man who was offering to fit some plastic edging to his roof. Mr X agreed to this work being done. Not long after the work started, the roofer came back to the door and said the wood on the roof was rotten, he could fix it, but the price would now be £4,500.

Fortunately for Mr X, a neighbour was concerned and called the police, who arrived and arrested the roofer. It turned out that he was wanted for crimes elsewhere. Trading standards subsequently employed a surveyor to look at the roof and he confirmed that the wood wasn't rotten and did not need replacing.

Mr X had a lucky escape thanks to his neighbour and was £4,500 better off.

Anyone who buys goods or services from a trader while they are visiting their home where the cost is more than £35, has seven days to cancel the agreement, and the trader must give cancellation rights in writing, together with a cancellation form that can be used to cancel the agreement. A trader commits a criminal offence if they fail to give this cancellation notice and can be prosecuted, just like the roofer was in this case. Trading standards strongly advises people not to deal with traders who call uninvited to their door and offer to do work.

Look out for the Buy with Confidence logo - trading standards checks traders so local people don't have to. Visit the website www.buywithconfidence.gov.uk or call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on 08454 04 05 06.

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ST GEORGE'S FORDINGTON

MESSENGER



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Fiona
Hall

Will you come and follow, and never be the same?

During Lent, some of us have been studying the Beatitudes with the help of a study book called 'Life Attitudes.' It has been good, but also challenging. On our last night together the book suggested we listen to Bob Fisher and John Bell's song, 'Will you come and follow me?'

Each verse asks the listener if they will do something, 'and never be the same?' And as I look at the disciples on Good Friday and again on Easter Sunday, they were not the same people. The experience of the meal together, the garden, the betrayal, and the cross, changed them. They were never going to be the same again. They would now view the world and life through the cross and resurrection. But full understanding did not come at once. There was disbelief, for example – the two friends on their way to Emmaus didn't believe that Jesus had risen, (Luke 24), and Thomas doubted, (John 27), whilst Peter got so fed up he went back to fishing (John 21).

The dramatic events of Easter changed the disciples, but it took the Ascension and Pentecost to get them focussed and functioning as followers of Jesus again. And it took many years and a lot of arguing and debating for them to begin to build the Church. And centuries on God is still building his Church and inviting his disciples to help him, if we are willing to follow him, and never be the same.

Happenings at St George's

15th April 7pm – Church Council AGM meeting in St George's Church Hall.

20th April 1pm-4pm – St George's Church Fair.

Altar flowers in February

31st March Easter Sunday given to celebrate the Diamond Wedding of Mary & Tony Walker

14th April for Viv and Ben for on what would have been their Golden Wedding Anniversary

Also for Jean & Bill Salisbury on their Diamond Wedding Anniversary.

Smile a While

Margaret
Morrissey

Just had a phone call that required a security check. It asked me what age I will be on my next birthday. That was it! #fail

I had two emails from Churches Together for the magazine. In the first was a paragraph welcoming the Pope, but it was unfinished. The second email said Sorry have just finished off the Pope!! It did make me smile – I could see the headline "Dorchester Churches Together Finish Off the Pope".

The quickest way for a parent to get a child's attention is to sit down and look comfortable.

The last month has been busy as ever with everyone wondering where March went. We had a record attendance for Mothering Sunday and thanks to a dedicated group of helpers on the Saturday were able to distribute at least 150 posies to all the ladies in church. Manor Park school choir came and sang a fantastic song for mothers with just perfect words and the Angel Band played for us during Holy Communion – very moving.

"It's very nice, Trevor, but it's not exactly a posy..."



A record number of people shared our Lent lunch. 21 people joined us, despite the clergy all disappearing for a Quiet day to Hillfield Friary.

Palm Sunday with a real donkey – more on this next month, watch this space...

On St. Patrick's day my husband celebrated his 70th. It started with a snow storm, church, then out to lunch with five of the grandchildren. Rocco came up with a new version of Happy Birthday, although he did prefix it with "If I was singing this to Gus..." (the dog). Fortunately his mother did not hear him. It went like this: "Happy Birthday to you, you live in a Zoo, you look like a monkey and smell like one too", aided and abetted by little Frank. We did try to explain to Granddad he was singing what he would sing to the dog but the dear old man is a bit Mutt and Jeff. Hard not to laugh as he is a dear little boy and not at all rude – he thought it was fine for the dog. Granddad was not so sure, never a dull moment. All but Birthday boy behaved excellently in the restaurant and for a special treat we allowed him to play Junior Trivial Pursuit with the children afterwards, which depressed him even more as he kept getting the questions wrong!

As we celebrate our Patronal Festival this month we remember the wonderful work and leadership of St George, and his battle cry echoes in our ears as we go forward to bring the Christian faith to all around us and slay our dragons. The will of Alfred the Great is said to refer to the saint, in a reference to the church of St George Fordington which is believed to be the first church in England to be named for St George. At Fordington a stone over the south door records the miraculous appearance of St George to lead crusaders into battle.

St George's Choir News

Those of you in the congregation will have noticed an addition to the men's rank in the person of **Stuart Read** in the bass section, a real 'basso profundo'. We welcome you most heartily Stuart.

You may also have noticed how the choir are more evenly balanced on both sides of the choir stalls, with two rows on either side rather than one row on the organ side and three on the other, which means that the sopranos, by far the bigger section, are now all together, and the men are not hidden behind the pillar feeling isolated from the congregation, resulting in a most satisfactory and sensible result.

We recently mourned the death of a very dear friend and choir member in the passing of Anne Cornick, who loved her singing and was very loyal to that cause when she sang in the choir. Anne suffered very much with her health in the latter part of her life. I remember on one occasion when visiting her in the residential home in Prince of Wales Road, we talked about things that had happened in the past and especially about her husband Bert and the fun things we did together.

The one thing that I shall always remember about Anne when talking to her was the look in her eye whenever

Bert's name was mentioned, a definite look of love, with a hint of a tear here and there, but always a smile. Surely a look of love that, even in death meant an everlasting love of a man and woman for one another.

Graham Barter

It Brought Tears to my Eyes - sequel

It was our last day with Sarah, John and Juliette before they returned to Australia. The five of us, including my husband, were in Salisbury Cathedral, and were walking back down the North Isle, when a priest started to say some prayers from the pulpit and everyone was still and quiet. After a minute or two he began "Our Father". I looked round slowly to see where my six foot tall, fourteen year old granddaughter was, and found she was looking at me, smiling and slowly nodding her head. Neither of us said a word!

After that we had tea and scones in a very old fashioned tea room and then it was good bye for another couple or three years.

Rosemary Skevington

The News Hound—The Vicar's Dog

Fiona's turning 50 or half a century old as her kind friends remind her! I cheer her up by reminding her that at least people don't go round multiplying her age by 7 – which would make her a very healthy looking 350 year old! Mind you, that's still a lot younger than St George's Church, which will be having its annual fair on April 20th.

So age is all about perspective and how we view things. And Easter's a bit like that. The disciples saw the cross as a disaster and tragedy, the religious rulers saw the cross as a problem solved, many of the people saw the cross as an afternoon's entertainment. But Christians see that in the cross, 'God gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.' (1 Corinthians 15:5)

But whatever might be said about perspective, if you think I'm coming down to play with the dragons on fair day you can forget it.



St Mary the Virgin

The Open Door



Your Place in History

Robert
Potter

I have been reading through several years of **Minutes of St Mary's church council meetings** and of the Annual Meetings in order to record the changes which have gradually occurred in the church. This so that I can update the history that I wrote in 1998. A lot has happened since then and it's surprising how we forget that some of these changes have actually taken place; things that might have provoked discussion at the time have been assimilated into the life of the church and accepted. **The bell turret isn't missed, the Mission (in 2005) is almost forgotten, we've experienced two new incumbents and the millennium kneelers are now 13 years old.**

Something else that gets forgotten is people. Reading through the names of those present at meetings or who served as sidesmen reminded me of men and women who served St Mary's well in their time, often for many years. Some are still alive but no longer able to worship with us, others have died. It seems to be in the nature of things that once out of sight a person is soon forgotten, along with the good things they did, which is a great shame. **It's often only when we attend funerals that we realise the diversity of a person's life and are reminded that it is to them that we owe a debt of gratitude for the way they contributed to the church or the community.**

Looking back at past names and recalling those people made me realise how transient our moment of glory is. We may feel that what we do is important, that the world (or the church) can't operate without us but in fact others will take our places in the pews, in the choir, on councils and committees. That is the way of things. Let us continue to do what we can but remember we are but dust. There's a cheering thought to take us through Lent!

Barbara Carr

One of the people who did a tremendous amount for St Mary's over many years was Barbara Carr and an extract from what was said at her funeral service will bring back memories from long-standing members of the congregation and might be of interest to newcomers.

Barbara was already a member of the Mothers' Union when she came to Dorchester and so she quickly became involved in St Mary's branch, becoming its secretary and

then the overseas representative for the deanery. After a few years here Barbara took on the job of looking after weddings and funerals and then the role of sacristan. This latter job is complex and requires considerable devotion in terms of time and effort. Barbara was involved in other things in the town and worked at the post-graduate medical centre but I'm sure she regarded her work in this church as her first priority.

St Mary's had not had a vergers since the war-time years and in 1990 it was realized that Barbara was doing all the work of a vergers without that being officially recognized so it was agreed that as she was filling that role she should have the title - with the robe, badge and staff. She was enrolled at a service in the cathedral, an event which Barbara described as memorable. As a quiet, unassuming person who didn't seek the limelight, she played down the ceremonial parts of her role although of course doing what had to be done on big occasions. She was always fully involved in all the routine work of keeping St Mary's running, ordering wine, wafers and candles, caring for the vestments and altar linen, tidying up after services, organizing brass cleaning and, for a time, the coffee rota, setting up the church for weddings and funerals and many other jobs around the church - the kind of things that go unnoticed and which we take for granted. All this was done with great sincerity as an expression of her deep Christian faith. Everything had to be done perfectly as it was done in the service of her Lord - as well as in the service of a succession of incumbent priests with their different requirements and expectations! Tony Wheeler, used to looking after himself in these matters, is reputed to have said that he enjoyed being deputy sacristan.

She was very knowledgeable and very definite as to how things should be done and when she went to New Zealand to visit her daughter, Barbara wrote out, in her meticulous, neat handwriting, a week by week description of all the jobs that her stand-ins would have to do in her absence. Nothing was left to chance in her absence.

One other aspect of Barbara's life and work here was her concern and care for members of the congregation. She would follow up cases of illness or bereavement for some time to make sure that all was well and that there was nothing she or the church could do to help.

She was greatly missed when ill health forced her to give up her many roles during the interregnum before Harold came.

St Mary the Virgin



Happening this month

“Let’s Talk”. Please look at the “Let’s Talk” information on the board in the South Aisle and fill in the questionnaire and put it in the box provided so that we can respond to Bishops Nicholas’ initiative.

The Taize service is at 6pm on Sunday 7th April.

The Monday Senior Club will meet on Monday 15th April at 2.30pm in the Hall when our speaker will be Mervyn Sharpe who will share with us his experiences of swimming the channel. We welcome new members and if there is anyone who would like to come but needs transport, a mini bus is available. Please contact Doris Matthews 263869 or Rosemary Bassett 262615. Our 2013 programme has a variety of speakers and we also have an outing in July with a cream tea and a Christmas lunch in December.

St Mary’s Annual Church meeting – Monday 15th April at 7pm in the Hall with no Mass beforehand. This meeting gives everyone an opportunity to hear what has happened and what is planned, a chance to ask questions and to express opinions, to elect churchwardens and council members and to appoint sidesmen. Do try to be there.

The flower group is to hold a coffee morning at Kath Joslin’s (3, Garfield Avenue) on Saturday 20th April from 10a.m. to 12 noon.

The Benefice APCM will be held in St Peter’s hall on Thursday 25th April at 7.30 p.m.

Sanctuary Lamp Candles

- 7th Given by Jennifer Clarke-Williams in memory of her father Ted Hargraves whose years mind falls on 9th April.
- 14th Given by Janet and Gerry Comley to mark their Wedding anniversary on the 14th and to mark family birthdays.
- 21st Given by Cynthia Fry in memory of her mother Iris whose years mind falls on 20th April.
- 28th Given by Rosemary and Trevor Bassett in memory of Joanna Bolton their grand-daughter whose years mind falls on the 29th.

Easter

Rosemary
Bassett

By the time you read this we will have celebrated the triumph of the Resurrection on Easter Day. I hope that you had a very enjoyable and blessed Easter, whether you went away or stayed at home.

Like Christmas, Easter is not just a day of celebration but a period of 40 days. The Easter season goes on to Ascension Day (9th May), when we remember Christ’s return to heaven, and finishes at Pentecost (19th May) with the great outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

However each Sunday is a reminder of the Resurrection as we continue to celebrate Easter on the first day of every week of the year when our risen Lord comes to us in the breaking of bread.

The coming of the Son of God into the world in human form, his death and resurrection, together with his ascension and the coming of the Holy Spirit, keep our minds focussed for half the year on the significant events which point out to us so sharply what God has done for us, and continues to do. The readings set for the other half of the year remind us of his earthly ministry and teaching, the psalms and Old Testament scriptures he used, and the writings of the first generation of the Church.

All this has been passed on to us by our faithful predecessors. God has given us faith to receive it, and he has entrusted it to us so that we can pass it on to others.

Geraldine Moxham writes: I found this poem in an old Patience Strong book and was quite moved by it. I just felt that I would like to share this.

A little less talk and a little more trying
would help this old world quite a lot
A little more hope and a little less crying
would make it a happier spot.
A little more faith, and a little less worry
applied to our daily affairs
A little more poise and a little less hurry,
and time for our thoughts and prayers.
A little more joy in the doing of duties.
Less grumbling; a little more song
would open our eyes to new truths and new beauties
and help us to struggle along.
A little less take and a little more giving
a bit of the old Christian creed.
The courage to try out a new way of living
That’s just what we all seem to need.

Read Easy changes 20 lives in Dorchester and Weymouth

A little over 2 years ago a working mum from Cerne Abbas, Ginny Williams-Ellis, launched an adult literacy service called Read Easy in Dorchester and Weymouth. It was aimed at people who had struggled in or been failed by the education system and had ended up in adult life unable to read.

Read Easy recognises that conventional classroom learning just hasn't worked for some people. They responded by setting up a network of personal reading coaches to work one-to-one with those who need intensive reading care - or "readers" as Read Easy call them.

The best news is that all this is provided without charge. All Read Easy's people are volunteers and freely give their time and expertise. Read Easy cover their costs by private donation, and through the generosity of organisations like the Co-op, Synergy and Magna.

The reading sessions, which last about half an hour, twice a week take place in safe, neutral venues like the United

Church in Dorchester, and Weymouth Library.

Mark from Dorchester is Read Easy's most recent "graduate". A successful businessman, Mark got others to do the paperwork. Into his 50s he reckoned that he would never learn to read but he decided to give it a go. Enrolling with Read Easy and working with his coach Clive, in barely 5 months., Mark had gone from struggling over simple words to reading War Horse and the Horse Whisperer.

With more than 30 people now being coached, Read Easy is seeking a local organiser in Dorchester. Local chairperson Judy Burnham is looking to appoint a Coordinator to find the right coaches for the right readers, arrange training and meetings and be there for them if any issues arise.

To find out more about how Read Easy can help someone you know and the opportunities to help change lives call John Paterson on 0844 4724728.

How the Internet started

A revelation with an Incredibly Big Message (IBM): Well, you might have thought that you knew how the Internet started, but here's the true story ... In ancient Israel, it came to pass that a trader by the name of Abraham Com did take unto himself a young wife by the name of Dot. And Dot Com was a comely woman, broad of shoulder and long of leg. Indeed, she was often called Amazon Dot Com. And she said unto Abraham, her husband: "Why dost thou travel so far from town to town with thy goods when thou canst trade without ever leaving thy tent?" And Abraham did look at her - as though she were several saddle bags short of a camel load, but simply said: "How, dear?" And Dot replied: "I will place drums in all the towns and drums in between to send messages saying what you have for sale, and they will reply telling you who hath the best price. And the sale can be made on the drums and delivery made by Uriah's Pony Stable (UPS)." Abraham thought long and decided he would let Dot have her way with the drums. And the drums rang out and were an immediate success. Abraham sold all the goods he had at the top price, without ever having to move from his tent. To prevent neighboring countries from overhearing what the drums were saying, Dot devised a system that only she and the drummers knew. It was called Must Send Drum Over Sound (MSDOS), and she also developed language to transmit ideas and pictures - Hebrew To The People

(HTTP). But this success did arouse envy. A man named Maccabia did secrete himself inside Abraham's drum and began to siphon off some of Abraham's business. But he was soon discovered, arrested and prosecuted - for insider trading. And the young men did take to Dot Com's trading as doth the greedy horsefly take to camel dung. They were called Nomadic Ecclesiastical Rich Dominican Sybarites, or NERDS. And lo, the land was so feverish with joy at the new riches and the deafening sound of drums that no one noticed that the real riches were going to that enterprising drum dealer, Brother William of Gates, who bought off every drum maker in the land. And indeed did insist on drums to be made that would work only with Brother Gates' drumheads and drumsticks. And Dot did say: "Oh, Abraham, what we have started is being taken over by others." And Abraham looked out over the Bay of Ezekiel, or eBay as it came to be known. He said: "We need a name that reflects what we are." And Dot replied: "Young Ambitious Hebrew Owner Operators." "YAHOO," said Abraham. And because it was Dot's idea, they named it YAHOO Dot Com. Abraham's cousin, Joshua, being the young Gregarious Energetic Educated Kid (GEEK) that he was, soon started using Dot's drums to locate things around the countryside. It soon became known as God's Own Official Guide to Locating Everything (GOOGLE). And truly, I say unto thee, that is how it did all begin.

A History of Winterbourne Monkton

HISTORY OF THE CHURCH AND VILLAGE

Winterborne Wast was the ancient name for Winterborne Monkton, situated 1 ½ miles south of Dorchester on the old Roman road to Weymouth.

The village is mentioned in the Domesday Book in 1085 as a parish owned by the Lady Ida, wife of Eustace, Earl of Bologne; and the Manor of Winterborne Wast came into the ownership of the Priory of Wast through the Lady Ida's descendants in 1214 AD. This foundation was of the order of Cluny. At this time, it was probable that there was a small cell in existence for possibly two monks of the Cluniac order who took care of the revenue and the lands for the Priory.

The Church, however, originally built in the 13th century, consisted of the chancel and nave. The piscine dates from the early 14th century and is of the decorated period; and the arcade is typical perpendicular (Dorset) or about 1377.

The recorded rector in 1305 was instituted by the Procurator of the Priory of Wast, who held the patronage until 1340 when King Edward III seized the Manor for a brief period.

In 1349 the patronage was given to Ralph de Middlemay Bart, and he also seized the Manor; which then changed hands several times during the French wars. There were no fewer than eleven incumbents in the fourteenth century, and fifteen in the next.

During the 15th century the Manor was given to the Chantry of Exeter, and leased by the Sywards of Herringston in 1450 AD. The west tower, together with the south arcade and aisle were built after this time; and the three bells hung, one of which exists today, inscribed "Ave Maria".

RESTORATION OF THE CHURCH

In 1870 the north wall, which was Norman, was taken down. It was very thick and of rubble, built upon the surface of the ground without foundations. To find a solid foundation for the new wall the masons had to go down six feet. Into the Norman wall oaken beams had been built, the wood had perished, little more than dust was left. The roof was wagon-headed, plastered with one moulded rib dividing the nave from the chancel. The chancel was shorter than the present one, the ancient screen the base of which was found *in situ*, between two high pews, being on the east

side of the rood loft doorway. This base, which was much decayed, consisted of an oak framework with three plain panels on either side. The head of the screen was found upon the base and inserted in the new screen in a position similar to that in which it had been found.

There was a circular staircase leading to the rood loft, the upper doorway to which was a small square opening. The stone steps with the exception of the uppermost one, which is now supported by an iron bar built in for the purpose, were removed and a doorway made in the opposite side of the turret to give access to the organ chamber.

A plain painted oak 17th century pulpit stood against the door of the rood loft turret, entirely blocking it, so that its existence was not suspected until the pulpit was removed. The door was then revealed and on opening it, the turret within was filled with hay and straw, which must have been there for centuries, possibly since Cromwell's visit to these parts, for the pulpit was of that date.



On removing the whitewash from the wall of the south aisle, 15th century wall paintings, rudely executed in outline, were found.

One altar slab was found in the pavement of the porch turned upside down; this was buried in the Chancel.

The organ chamber with its archways in to the chancel and aisle were added at this time, the old windows of the church displaced by the arches being repaired, and inserted in its walls.

The piscina now on the south side of the chancel was in the south aisle and there were indications that there had been a chapel there, possibly formed by a parclose from the first pillar to the wall.

There were some ancient oak benches (14th century) but there were too much decayed to be used again.

A solid fuel boiler was installed in Victorian times to fuel underfloor heating. The small shed outside was used to store coal. The boiler was lit on a Friday and stoked until Sunday when the church should have been comfortably warm. People would congregate round the boiler for a few minutes on arrival for Evensong. The boiler continued to be used until after the Second World War.

Tony
Wheeler

**“Preserve me from my calling’s snare,
And hide my simple heart above,
Above the thorns of choking care,
The gilded baits of worldly love.”**
Charles Wesley

They sung that when I was priested. I have long been retired, but retirement is from my appointment as a Vicar of Dorchester. There is and can be no retirement from being a priest. It is a life sentence, but for me a happy one. I am glad to have been called by God in the first place, glad that it is permanent, glad that I shall keep the priesthood to my dying day and some say beyond it. “Thank you, Lord”.

But every calling has its snares. Two which afflict priests are listed in Charles Wesley’s hymn.

1. “The thorns of choking care.” I feel reasonably sure that most if not all parish priests have a permanent bad conscience about the people we neglect. I do certainly have such a conscience. It is, however, not my fault. You cannot care pastorally for people you do not know well. In practical terms how many parishioners can you know well enough to care for properly?

This has been variously estimated. When I read some human ethology as a student, the viable size of a tribe of hunter/gatherers was said to be between two and three hundred persons. Humans lived in that size of society for enough hundreds of thousands of years for our minds to become adapted to cope with it. This, therefore is our natural state, to live in a community of two or three hundred people.

Today, no cities or towns and only a few villages are as small as this. So we live in enormous “tribes”, too big for us, and in consequence are slightly uncomfortable and fearful of strangers. However humans are adaptable and have learned to cope, to a degree. If we townies have – say – 300 family and close acquaintances and acquire a new family of friends – say 3 or 4 people, we drop an equivalent number. We just neglect them. This is not deliberate, it just happens because of the limits of the human mind.

It is many years since I read ethology, so what it says now, I am not too sure, but would guess that this particular calculation, though not an immaculate one scientifically, has not altered much. It seems like common sense to me. In the days of Henry VIII, his commissioners found that in the city of York there was a clergyman of some sort for every 20 people. This rightly upset them. Clergy can care for more than that – 300 in fact. But we cannot care for more than a very small slice of a parish of say 20,000 souls (many parishes are larger.) Not a hope! Even with the

good amount of voluntary lay and retired clergy help we get now it is way beyond reach. But we stood up in church and accepted this impossible task. No wonder priests have a bad conscience.

But as Wesley indicates, to accept blame for what we cannot help is, theologically speaking, a “snare”, a temptation which we should fight. It springs from pride. We are upset because we are human – and have limits. Therefore our guilt is one of “our calling’s snares”. May God help us and “hide our simple (easily deluded) heart above”, because bad consciences, even if they are misplaced, are destructive of our joy in the Lord and therefore sour our lives of prayer.

2. “The gilded baits of worldly love.” It used to be reckoned that the especial temptation of the clergy was the love of money. That was in the days when the church had more money than it knew what to do with – i.e before the rise of nationalism. Now (thank God) our salaries are not much of a temptation. If anyone seeks the priesthood in hopes of money, they have a simple heart indeed. Most priests now do it for nothing.

There may be other gilded baits, such as status. I had a friend, like me, the son of a vicar. We were aged 10. He showed me his bedroom of which he was proud. There was a miniature altar with candles etc, all done shipshape and Bristol fashion. There was even a miniature cassock and surplice.

It wasn’t there for prayer, he used to dress up like his dad and play at being the Vicar. His mother thought it was sweet, but I didn’t. “How”, I thought, “Can anyone so woefully miss the point? You don’t play at worshipping God.” I was shocked. Fortunately I had the sense not to say so. His mother made excellent cakes.

Being a Rev still has a status for some people. Also there are vestments and the good old dog collar. Some postulants for the priesthood just wish to dress up. I have met them.

Clergy share this gilded bait with soldiers, policemen, the N.H.S, the town mayor, car park attendants and others. Uniforms go with all these jobs. This can be an excellent prop at times and give a sense of belonging. It can give courage in difficult situations. That is OK, but if a person feels so inadequate in himself that dressing up is the main reason for “joining up”, then this seems a little sad and does not often make for being a good priest or even a good car park attendant.

Charles Wesley is always enlightening. He knew a thing or two about you and me, that one.

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 7th April — Easter 2
 9am BCP Communion
 10:30am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 14th April — Easter 3
 9am Said Communion
 10:30am Sung Eucharist

Sunday 21st April — Easter 4
 9am BCP Communion
 10:30am Sung Eucharist
 6:30pm Choral Evensong

Sunday 28th April — Easter 5
 9am BCP Communion
 10:30am Sung Eucharist

Footprints — Dorchester to Burton Bradstock

Minna
 St Aubyn

The Footprints Project is a local charity which trains voluntary mentors to help prisoners on their release, literally from the prison gates, and onwards until they are able to re-enter civilian

life. It is based in Dorchester and covers the whole of Dorset and South Somerset.

Beryl (fundraiser for the project) had been invited to give a presentation at Burton Bradstock because the villages of the Bride Valley — Chilcombe, Puncknowle, Shipton Gorge, Swyre, Long Bredy, Little Bredy and Litton Cheney — raise money for two charities each year, one local and one international. And this year The Footprints Project, together with The Leprosy Mission, which is helping to eradicate leprosy in India and Mozambique, are the lucky ones. I went along with Beryl, if only to help carry the publicity material.

The Village Hall was shining with light and cleanliness and orderly organisation, in preparation for this dual fund-raising evening. At the door was a basket already full of £10 and £20 notes which would, with the rest of the

collection that evening, be divided between Footprints and The Leprosy Mission.

Tables were covered with blue and white gingham cloths and glorious daffodils. We were greeted by several smiling faces, including The Revd. Ryder Rogers and his wife, Heather, who offered to help with setting up the publicity for Footprints.

First drinks were on the house, served by more volunteers, and the kitchen, seen through the hatch, was an oasis of calm efficiency — big pans of soup simmering, aproned cooks and commis-chefs, weaving between the others; a small army of efficiency.

Local guests began to arrive and exchange news; there were brief discussions with the main organisers and as people began to take their places at the pretty tables, wine or soft drinks in hand, we finalised the pamphlet arrangements and glossy scarlet folders on the Footprints table.

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St Peter's Church
 Dorchester

FLOWER FESTIVAL
 6th – 7th July 2013

Theme: Hymns
 Open to all — entries
 invited from groups or
 individuals
Closing date: 31st May



For more information or to book please contact:
 Val Beavis — 01305 268756
 bshuttleworth04@aol.com

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By now, the presenter for the Leprosy Mission in the South West had arrived – Natalie Husk.

Before supper, Beryl, and later Natalie Husk, outlined the purpose of their chosen charities and answered questions from the guests and villagers.

Helping to reduce re-offending by
supporting those who have served their time



Our representative spoke convincingly of Footprints, describing case histories of ex-prisoners, several of whom are now mentors themselves, who have been helped by the charity. She described the first hours of release for some. They leave the prison gates, with a black plastic bag containing their belongings, and £45 in cash. If they have no supporting family or friends, and no other finances, the temptation to re-join their friends, some criminals themselves, have a drink or several, and rejoin the old crowd, must be strong.

Footprints has helped reduce re-offending locally; this area used to have one of the highest rates in the country. Instead, Footprints can provide a trained mentor, with up-to-date information on housing, training, available jobs, and how to claim benefits, as well as the importance of personal and expert attention and support.

Fundraising is challenging. Many people don't believe they deserve help, even though they have served their sentence. The evening raised £400, to be divided between the two charities, and for the rest of the year Burton Bradstock and the other seven Bride Valley churches will continue to hold events and fundraise and donate all money they raise to The Footprints Project and The Leprosy Mission. God bless them!

If you would like to know more about the Footprints Project please contact Jane Barkes, the Project Manager, on 01305 757217, or her mobile no: 07789937637, or online: info@footprintsproject.co.uk, or at their website: www.footprintsproject.org.uk.

Footprints House,
(‘round the corner’ from St Peter’s)
3 North Square,
Dorchester,
Dorset,
DT1 1HY.

Contact details for The Leprosy Mission are:

Tel. 01733 370505
Email: friends@lmint.org
www.leprosymission.org



St Andrew's Church West Stafford

Church Correspondent: Revd Jane Culliford



For your Diary

7 April	10am Parish Communion
Easter 2	Annual Meeting of Church Council (after the service)
14 April	10am Morning Prayer
Easter 3	
21 April	10am Parish Communion
Easter 4	
28 April	9am Holy Communion
Easter 5	10am Come and Worship

Eastertide

While Christ's resurrection is joyfully celebrated on Easter Sunday, 31st March, Eastertide continues throughout April, in the weeks after Easter until the Feast of Pentecost on 19th May. The Paschal candle, brought from the Easter Vigil and lit in church on Easter Sunday morning, is lit again at each service and the church is full of flowers once more, after the austerity of Lent. On one windowsill instead of flowers, there is an Easter garden with 3 crosses on a hill on one side and on the other side is a stone tomb. The empty tomb the first sign Jesus' disciples had of the resurrection is shown when the stone that covered the entrance to the tomb in the Easter garden is rolled away on Easter morning to reveal the empty tomb with only grave clothes within.

The garden is decorated throughout Eastertide with fresh flowers celebrating new life as an aid to reflection on Christ's death and resurrection, recalling Christ's risen presence among us. So, not only on one Sunday but throughout Eastertide we can say with joy Christ is risen, He is risen indeed Alleluia!



Spring Flower Show

Bockhampton and District Horticultural Association hold their Spring Show in West Stafford Village on Saturday 6th April 2-3.30pm. After such a dreary wet and cold winter this should be a good show in the week after Easter if at long last there has been some sunshine and warmth.

Annual Meeting

The Annual meeting of St Andrew's Church Council will be held on the Sunday after Easter, '**Low Sunday**' 7th April immediately after the 10am service. This is a good opportunity to reflect on all that has been happening over the past year but also to look forward as we elect churchwardens and the Church Council to renew our vision and promote the mission of the church in West Stafford.

Open Church

The church is always kept open during daylight hours to welcome visitors and with longer days and warmer weather (we hope!) there are likely to be an increasing flow. However the church is also used regularly by people from the village and from around as a much needed quiet place to sit, to reflect and to pray. There is a book for prayer requests at the back of the church and those who have requested our prayers are included in the intercessions at Evening prayer on Wednesday at 4.30pm.

Eating Together

Hospitality and eating together is a feature of the life of the church in West Stafford. It was good to have so many people from across the benefice attending the Lent Lunch last month in the Village Hall and some gather every few weeks to have Sunday Lunch at the Wise Man. Advance notice of another opportunity to eat together – on 9th June there will be a Cream Tea followed by Evensong – details next month.

St Simon & St Jude

Winterborne Monkton



Our Services in April

7th April (BCP) Holy Communion at 11.15

21st April Matins at 11.15 followed by the Parish AGM

Events in May

Ursula
Norman

One of our more exciting services of the year takes place on 5th May – Rogationtide, blessing the crops, when families with children are encouraged to come, and we all go on a tractor trailer out onto the farm. This will be held at Maiden Castle Farm – more details to follow.

We have a planned coffee morning on Tuesday 14th May at Ursula Norman's house. Time and more details will be announced in May magazine.

A HISTORY OF WINTERBOURNE MONKTON—
See page 16 for this month's special feature.

Mothering Sunday Service

This was led by Revd Paddy King and Revd Jean Saddington. The children all gave their mother a posy of flowers and said thank you for Mothers everywhere.





CHURCHES TOGETHER DORCHESTER

Compiled by
Val Potter
264416

Welcome to the New Pope

Messages of support and welcome were sent by all the main Christian Churches when Cardinal Jorge Mario Bergoglio of Argentina was elected and chose the name of Pope Francis I. In his homily at his first Mass he spoke of the need to protect the environment, serve one another with love and not allow hatred, envy and pride to "defile our lives". He said the role of the pope was to open his arms and protect all of humanity: "Especially the poorest, the weakest, the least important, those whom Matthew lists in the final judgment on love: the hungry, the thirsty, the stranger, the naked, the sick and those in prison".

More than Feeding the Five Thousand

Telling our Stories – Raising Our Prophetic Voice
Increasing numbers of people are turning to food banks, like the one in Dorchester. We have to begin to ask what is going on and on 13th April there is a SW regional gathering, organised by SW Churches Forum and Social Responsibility Network South West, for Christians who are addressing poverty in their communities, especially those who are involved in sharing food with those in need.

Professor Ruth Levitas, Sociology Research Fellow at Bristol University, will look at the causes of poverty in the UK, followed by theological reflection and the opportunity to share information about what is being done, and to develop a response. The Forum takes place at St Peters Church Eastwick Road, Taunton TA2 7HD, from 10.00am -1.00pm. For further details and to book please contact missionforum@bathwells.anglican.org 01749 685104 or ask Val Potter as I currently represent the SW Ecumenical Officers on this regional forum.

'We are called to give bread to the poor, but we are also encouraged to ask why the poor have no bread. As we respond pastorally to care for people facing vulnerability, we are also called to speak prophetically and to seek social justice with them'.

Truth & Lies About Poverty

A joint national group of researchers from Baptist, Methodist and United Reformed Churches investigate the facts behind current issues to inform churches and policy makers. Their recent report deserves to be read by as many people as possible as it addresses some of the things we see and hear in the media about poverty - 'They are just lazy', 'they are all on the fiddle', 'they spend it all on booze'. Full

of well researched background and fleshed out by real stories, it is easy to read so check it out at www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandliesaboutpoverty/. Unfortunately the group were so environmentally aware that there are few printed copies available.

Good Friday

The Good Friday Walk of Witness had a fresh look this year, with a group of young people helping to plan it. They used the theme of Unity in Community and the stops reflected different elements of the community. At the Skate Park and Rowan Cottage we reflected on young and older people; at the new council offices, Barclay's Bank and the CAB we considered people who serve the community in their different ways. We ended at the River of Life Church for prayer and refreshments.

Quiet Space

At a coffee morning in March the Poundbury Quilters were given well deserved thanks for the beautiful wall hanging. The Mayor, Andy Canning, thanked them on behalf of the community for this stunning work, which was inspired by the landscape surrounding the town. Spring is the time for new life in the garden so funds were agreed for planting up the garden so that visitors in summer will finally be able to enjoy a little time out in the peace and quiet of the garden as imagined in the original vision for the Quiet Space.

It was also agreed to explore appropriate future use of the building outside daytime opening hours, so if you have ideas to share please talk to the trustees in any of the sponsoring churches.

Safer Homes

Dorchester Community Lunches are always good opportunities to talk with people from organisations who serve the people of our town and surrounding villages and at the recent one we had a presentation from the Fire & Rescue Service. They now have a greater duty to help us all to address safety in the home not only as part of the fire prevention agenda, but in more general ways as well. They offer 3 things:

Free home safety checks for anyone, so do ask for one for yourself or for someone you know who may benefit from it - it covers looking at things

Churches Together Dorchester

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like gas appliances, electrical systems, and pointing out potential dangers like frayed stair carpets or uneven floors.

Half Day Home Safety Hazard & Awareness Sessions. These would be excellent for those who visit isolated older people in their homes. The free sessions take place in 'FireWise', in the new Weymouth Community Safety Centre, which has a mock-up of domestic settings to use in training. Participants learn how to spot potential hazards and are given tips and hints for safer living. Sessions can be booked for 20-25 people so could we organise a session for people from Dorchester churches who make home visits?

SAIL: Safe & Independent Living Referral Service. This allows recognised partner organisations to refer people (with their permission) for home safety checks and additional support services as appropriate.

Michelle Heward is the Community Risk Information and Engagement Officer, who can provide information and book the training sessions. Tel 01305 753078
michelle.heward@dorsetfire.gov.uk

Mazel tov

Jean
Lang

The Hasidic movement was started in the 1700s in Eastern Europe by Rabbi Israel Baal Shem Tov (referred to as the Besht). Hasidism comes from the Hebrew meaning “piety” and is a branch of

Orthodox Judaism promoting spirituality. Hasidic Jews have come to be recognized by their devotion to a dynastic leader “the Rebbe”, the wearing of distinctive clothes and a greater than average study of the inner depths of the Torah.

Fundamental to Hasidic Judaism are three oaths – not to ascend to the Holy Land as a group using force, not to rebel against the government of the countries in which they live and not, by their sins, to prolong the coming of the Messiah. Strict Hasidic Jews believe that Zionists violated all three oaths, causing the holocaust and the violation of Jewish teaching in the creation of the State of Israel.

The traditions and beliefs of this strict sect have given rise to powerful literature in the books of Cham Potak and more recently in the second novel of Anouk Markovits. Anouk Markovits was raised a Hasidic Jew in France but at the age of 19 was sent to America to make an arranged marriage. She fled from her community in the States and on her own worked to become first an architect and then a Doctor of Romance literature. Her first novel was written in French (her mother tongue, she says her first language is still Yiddish) but her second “I am forbidden” is written in English.

It follows the life of two families – from the horrors of the Second World War in Hungary to France and on to America. The daughter of the family left in the northern part of Transylvania in Hungary is the only survivor with terrible memories of her parent’s death and a haunting

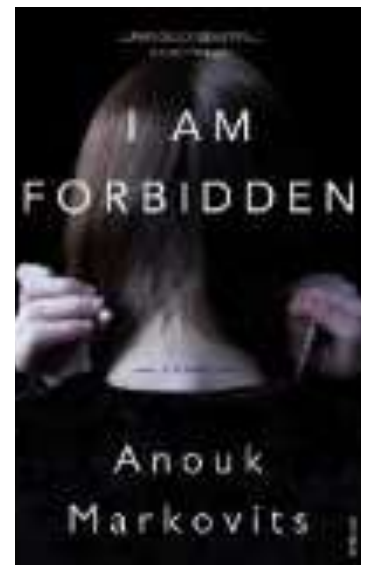
recollection of the Rabbi’s escape from Satmar onto a rescue train. A train that really existed and which as the result of negotiations between Adolph Eichmann and a Zionist leader allowed (for a fee) some 1,685 Jews to escape including Rabbi Teitelbaum who was to become the leader of a major Hasidic community in America.

Mila the survivor is brought up in France in the house of her father’s friend with his daughter Atara. Mila remains within the community, fulfilling the woman’s restricted role in an orthodox household while Atara kicks against it. She researches the history of Rabbi Teitelbaum and rejects the Hasidic view that the leader survives in order to reconcile God to his people. Seeing his act of surviving as a betrayal of her people she walks out of her community, cutting herself off from her family and her past. Anouk Markovit’s portrayal of the contradictions and compromises of the Hasidic faith is fascinating. “I am forbidden” explores the personal and the communal, the tensions between fundamentalism and modernity in Judaism and is a powerful critique of Traditional Jewish life.

I Am Forbidden

By Anouk Markovits

(Vintage PB £7.99)



Editor’s Comment

As the Spring arrives (well, possibly – caught in a mini blizzard on the way to church on St Patrick’s Day) we think of Carol and Harold Stephens as they prepare to “retire” once again . I have not just lost a Rector but a dear friend in Carol, and we will miss Harold’s lovely pictures for the magazine. Let’s hope he will write us a letter next month to keep us up to date with the “Stephens family”.