



Pentecost

a rushing mighty wind or most powerfully, flames and tongues of fire. Yet, God's life-giving Holy Spirit, which so transformed Jesus' disciples, is not confined by these images.

Even if there are no cards to celebrate Pentecost there will be a Pentecost Party at St George's Church, (see details elsewhere) while our Pentecost gift is the gift of the transforming power of the Holy Spirit to teach and guide us in our lives and in the life of the Church today.

This is a gift more essential to us than Christmas goodies or Easter eggs, as this extract from poem Pentecost by William Blake expresses it:

*Unless the eye catch fire, God will not be seen.
 Unless the ear catch fire, God will not be heard.
 Unless the tongue catch fire, God will not be named.
 Unless the Heart catch fire, God will not be loved.
 Unless the mind catch fire, God will not be known.*

Jane
Culliford

It is impossible to miss the build up to Christmas. The shops are full of gifts, cards and decorations and carols heard everywhere from at least the end of October.

Easter is slightly more subdued but still, for weeks ahead, there are shelves stacked with chocolate eggs, yellow chicks and pastel printed flowery cards.

But for the third great festival of the Church's year, Pentecost, there is nothing in the shops at all; no cards and no gifts. Yet Pentecost, celebrated this year on 19th May, fifty days after Easter, is the birthday of the church. This is when we celebrate God's gift of his Holy Spirit to renew and empower the Church in its mission to all the corners of the world.

At one time at Pentecost there was a Whitsun Bank Holiday with walks and processions. I remember as a child having a straw hat and white gloves but there was little link to the celebration of the disturbing presence of the Holy Spirit.

But, if there were cards for Pentecost there are plenty of symbols that could be used; a gentle dove or a light breeze,

Cartoon



Editor

Margaret Morrissey OBE
 9 Hessary Street, Poundbury
 Dorchester DT1 3SF
 01305 250366
 dorchestermagazine@hotmail.co.uk

Advertising Manager

Liz Green
 7 Sydenham Way,
 Dorchester DT1 1DN
 01305 269610
 greenliz@hotmail.co.uk

ST GEORGE'S FORDINGTON

MESSENGER

Church Correspondent: Margaret Morrissey 250366



Dates this month

8th May 12noon (VE Day) – A Time for Peace – Christians Together – Borough Gardens
9th May 10am (Ascension Day) – Edward Chapel
12th May 6.30pm – Christian Aid Service
19th May – Bring and share lunch with St Andrew's following Service
21st May 7.30pm – Visitation of Bishop – St Peter's – please come and support David.

Message from the Vicar

Fiona
Hall

The book of Acts says, 'When the day of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Suddenly... they saw what seemed to be tongues of fire that separated and came to rest on each of them.'

This experience seemed to energize those gathered in the room and filled them with enthusiasm and drive. Yet so often today we use the image of fire to express exhaustion. **People now become 'burnt out' in their work and service.** Their energy and enthusiasm are painfully consumed and they are left feeling empty and drained.

And the Church is not immune: like any family it can be a place of busy activity, which is good, but busyness alone is not a measure of success. Amidst the busyness we need periods of stillness, waiting, preparing and resting too, where we are nurtured, refreshed and re-energized.

Sometimes we are in such a hurry to fulfil our goals, vision and potential, we miss God's whisper, or hurt others in our hurry. But God does not drive us to exhaustion. Jesus is the Good Shepherd, and will walk with his church, unfold his plans and teach his ways, just as he did with the two friends he walked with on the road to Emmaus. **At first they didn't understand, but they got there in the end.** And so did doubting Thomas. And the Church, despite all the hiccups, was created, spread across the world, and remains strong today.

And so as the Worldwide Church celebrates its birthday let us endeavour to have a balance of activity and rest, of

fire that energizes and enthuses us, and gentle warmth that renews and refreshes us.

The Church was born at Pentecost, but it's taken 2013 years, and counting, to perfect.
Happy Birthday Church!

St George's Fair

Margaret
Morrissey

In April we celebrated our Patronal Festival and Fair on the Green. The sun shone and the people came from all corners of the town. Alistair Chisholm the Town Crier of renown did us proud opening the fair with a special cry; Allen Knott was our MC on the Green and David Bowen in the church.



We had two wonderful choirs in church – Manor Park School and Dorchester Community Choir, plus the Ballet Club – all really excellent. On the green the Durnovaria Band played for St George and the Morris Men danced, encouraging the onlookers to join them. The people of the town never fail us and turned up in their droves to make it so successful.

Dorchester police came with van and talked with all the fairgoers, as did the National Trust man Ben with van.

Grand National

On Grand National day we were 11 with 7 in Snowdonia; Grandma did a sweep stake and gave all the children a horse. To Rocco's delight he won, but was on top of a mountain so did not discover till Sunday and missed the race. Having no concept of what a horse race was he was convinced he had won the horse and first words were not what did I win but "How old is he, what colour is he?" When told the horse was 11 he said, "Older than me and he ran all that way." We have to convince him it's just the money he won!! He still thinks it's now his horse. Wishing I had not had the idea, almost.

Fiona's Birthday

We celebrated the vicar's birthday with a Mad Hatters Tea Party – her choice – a really fun event and Fiona's friends supplied a really super tea and cake.

I stayed in character and wore my devil's hat !! However, there were some super hats turned out, nearly up to Ascot standard. Fiona's was a masterpiece.



Notice Board



The red paint notice board outside the front porch door has finally given up after years of sterling work; we have been very fortunate and C. J. Fry and Sons have crafted for us and donated a very lovely new oak one. We are all very grateful and thank them for their

generosity in giving to the community.

Why?

Why is it called lipstick if you can still move your lips?

Why is it night falls but day breaks?

Why is it that no word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver or purple?

Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship it's a cargo?

Altar flowers last month

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

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

21st April by Dorothy & Ron Huxley for Ron's brother John.

Easter Sunday by Mary & Tony Walker on their Diamond Wedding. Mary writes: "We had a great day with our lovely family. We married at a young age and had high hopes. Life dealt us a few hiccups, there were good and low times, tears and laughter but we had faith. At our 60th party all came together and we were overwhelmed with all the love the children, grandchildren and great grandchildren gave us. Hope, faith and love, the greatest of these is love."

The News Hound—The Vicar's Dog

Yippee, I hear there is another birthday coming up, though I think my ears need a clean as they say it's a 2013th birthday – better get the fire extinguishers ready!

The birthday party is in St George's Church, on Pentecost Sunday, 19th May, joining with St Andrew's and anyone else who'd like to come along and celebrate.



It's a bring and share lunch, so please bring lots of sausages and I'll make sure I share them with you!

Happy Birthday World Wide Christian Church!

St Mary the Virgin The Open Door



Rogation

Robert
Potter

The past year wasn't a good one, in this country, for holiday makers and it was a very bad one for farmers and growers.

The cereals harvest was poor, potatoes and other root crops rotted in the ground, autumn sowing was often impossible and the winter has seen big losses of ewes and lambs and the effects of the Schmallenberg virus on pregnant cattle and sheep.

Growers too have had a very difficult time and are now having to dump lorry loads of plants reared for the Spring and Easter market and ignored by gardeners who couldn't or didn't want to do anything outside.

It is pertinent, therefore, to remind ourselves of Rogationtide. Rogation Days are the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Day but it is usually on the Sunday (May 5th this year) that any observance of this festival takes place. Rogation (from the Latin 'to ask') is the time for asking for God's blessing on the crops and the livestock for the coming year.

It is one of four country services (the others being Plough Sunday in early January, Lammastide on August 1st and Harvest Thanksgiving) which are rarely observed now as we become increasingly urban in our outlook. Harvest festival remains as a kind of folk festival and a token acknowledgement of rural affairs except in the countryside where the realities of the struggle to get crops of all kinds 'safely gathered in' is appreciated from practical involvement.

Rogation services sometimes involved walking the parish boundaries with prayers at appropriate places but more usually there would be a walk to convenient places on a farm. The Rogation service at Winterborne Monkton this year will take place not in the church but at Maiden Castle Farm where prayers and readings will be said in fields, barns and cattle sheds.

In the 1920s St Mary's emulated this walk into the countryside by visiting the allotments between Damers and Bridport Roads. I remember the allotments being there until phase one of the hospital was built and Williams Avenue was created on the site of the footpath which ran alongside the railway and this walk to an area

devoted to growing crops was a good idea on the part of the vicar, Rev Jasper Mead.

Although we may not notice this occasion in the church's calendar it does serve as a reminder that we do depend on farmers and growers for the bulk of our food. If crops fail or the harvest is poor we find this reflected in the price of food in the shops. The work is hard and often frustrating as forces beyond farmers' control conspire to cause additional problems so let us remember this Rogationtide all who work to create and maintain the countryside which we enjoy (and which brings tourists in due season) and to produce so much of the food we need.

St Mary's Annual Meeting

Rosemary
Bassett

This was held in mid-April and was attended by 5 ordained and 24 lay people. We have 121 signed-up members so only about 1/5th of the congregation thought it was worth coming, which is a pity but I suppose it's typical of AGMs for any organization. They tend not to be the most exciting events and yet they usually include the election of committees and councils which will be involved in the running of the organization for the forthcoming year. Perhaps apparent lack of interest means people are happy with what's going on.

The encouraging thing about this annual meeting was the nomination and election of new and additional members of the church council, forming the largest and probably the most representative council we have had for many years, which is perhaps a good start to the year in which we welcome the new team rector and vicar of St Mary's.

The past year has seen the completion of the rostrum on which the nave altar stands and which is therefore the focal point of most services and the successful installation of a new sound system. A great deal of work has been done on the fabric of the building including a lot to prevent the ingress of rainwater and the subsequent repair and repainting of the internal plasterwork, resulting in a brighter appearance.

There has been a good social life which helps to unite the congregation and help people to know each other when they all sit in their accustomed seats on Sundays.

St Mary the Virgin



We said farewell, regrettably, to Harold Stephens and Carol. Other long-standing members of the church either moved away or died during the year but we welcomed as many new-comers so the number on the electoral roll remains the same. We look forward to the coming year and to new leadership.

Happening this month

The Monday Senior Club will meet on Monday 20th May at 2.30pm in the Hall when Dr Francis Burroughs will speak on "The Wonderful World of Glass". This should be a very interesting talk, new members and visitors are welcome.

The Christian Meditation – Contemplative Prayer group will meet every Wednesday in the Blessed Sacrament chapel at 5pm

Sunday 5th May 6pm – Taize Service – all welcome

Ascension Day – Thursday 9th May 7.30pm– Sung Eucharist

Pentecost Sunday – 19th May 2pm – Child Loss service

Trinity Sunday – 26th May – Our preacher at the 9.45am Sung Eucharist will be the Venerable Paul Taylor, Archdeacon of Sherborne.

Thursday 30th May – Corpus Christi – Sung Eucharist with devotions at 7.30pm when we will be joined by the Salisbury Branch of the Society of Catholic Priests.

St Mary's Eco Lunch

Sunday 23rd June 2013 at 12 noon

This is a 'bring and share' meal of 2 courses to be held in St Mary's Hall after the service on Sunday morning. It is free but we ask you to bring a plate of food, savoury or sweet, which is home grown, locally grown or 'fair trade', to share with others. It should be enough for your family and to share with another person or two. Drinks, such as home made elderflower cordial, will be provided.

In our experience from the Eco group of the Churches Together it will be a delicious meal and an enjoyable occasion. The aim is to think about cutting down the energy used in the production of food from its source to our plates in order to make a contribution to slowing down the pace of climate change. This will allow us to leave our children the legacy of a world where all the inhabitants will be able to live long and fulfilling lives with

sustainable resources. We have invited YP@D to find a way to help us to understand a bit more about the importance of this for the future.

Home grown food

Not all of us can do this but some people have chickens, grow salad, potatoes, fruit and herbs etc which would be good ingredients for a June lunch.

Locally grown food

The farmer's market and local producers are at the market on Wednesday mornings in Dorchester as well as the market on the last Saturday of the month in South Street where one can get vegetables, meat, eggs, fish, cheese, bread, etc.

Fair Trade food

Although this often comes from far away it is a way of supporting people producing food who cannot compete with the huge multinational companies. Tea, coffee, sugar, biscuits and cereals are easy to obtain in Dorchester from The Gallery and Oxfam, and the supermarkets often have fair trade bananas, etc. The Co-op has a particularly good selection of fair trade foods. Look for the symbol.

For further information and tickets ask John or Mary Foskett or the Social Committee, Audrey Litson, Kath Joslin, Ellie Stephens, or Joyce Potter.

Sanctuary Lamp Candles

- 5th Given by Jennifer Clarke-Williams in memory of her mother Phyllis Hargaves whose years mind falls on 5th May.
- 12th Given by Diana Barber in memory of her husband Colin whose birthday was on the 9th.
- 19th Given by Janet Comley in memory of her mother Elizabeth Berrie whose birthday was on the 15th. Also by Brian Woodsford to celebrate the 100th birthday of his mother Winnie Woodsford on the 21st May.
- 26th Given by Cynthia Fry in thanksgiving for her grandson Brenden whose birthday is 24th May.

Rugando Church School Project , Uganda

Parishioners at St Marys and members of Dorcas Mothers Union may already be familiar with the link which has been established with the Church in Rugando, a sub parish in the diocese of Kinkizi, in Uganda. It is the village closest to the area in which Christine Griffin, a lay pastoral assistant at St Marys, was brought up and this connection was the seed from which the idea of a link was formed.

Initially set up to provide a spiritual support the link has now been grown to provide physical support to the Rugando church school which tries to provide primary education to the children of the local community with very limited means. Last year the roll was 135 pupils ranging from nursery through to P5. However the parish was forced to increase fees from

10,000 Uganda Shilling per term (approx. £2.60) to 20,000 UGS (£5.20) and this resulted in a drop in the roll to 90 pupils. This increase was necessary provide funds for the improvement of the inadequate school building.

It has been determined that the greatest need of the school at the moment is the provision of adequate latrines and replacement of the the plastic sheeting roof with corrugated iron. In the future it is thought the provision

of bursaries, to help young girls attend the school, who might not otherwise be able to, would be a worthy aim.

To these ends a fund raising event taking the form of a "Uganda Evening" with Ugandan food and music will be held at St Mary's Church on Wednesday 10th July at 7pm. Tickets will become available closer to the event.



Bite Back at Hunger: Christian Aid Week 12–18 May 2013

'It's very rewarding to know that Christians of different traditions are working together for one common aim during Christian Aid Week.' Christian Aid Week volunteer

Thousands of churches will stand together this Christian Aid Week to speak out for change. Some 100,000 committed volunteers will go out and put their faith into action, raising funds to help some of the world's poorest and most vulnerable people.

This includes Britain's largest house-to-house collection, an extraordinary act of witness – demonstrating to our communities that we care about ending poverty and injustice.

There is enough food for everyone in the world, but one in eight people will go to bed hungry tonight.

This year's Christian Aid Week tells the story of how Christian Aid is helping communities to bite back at hunger through the lens of land rights in Bolivia, new technology in Kenya and innovative agriculture in Zimbabwe.



You can support Christian Aid Week by coming to the Service, visiting the Market or taking part in the Sponsored Walk (see page 4) or by visiting

News from Harold and Carol Stephens

It seems an age since the final benefice service marking our departure from Dorchester. However, due to the mysteries of house sales and buying in this country, we only finally moved out of the Rectory in Edward Road, on the 11th April. As a result we are still busy unpacking boxes, putting up shelves, sorting out decoration and generally trying to come to terms with a move of house. Having lived in a large Rectory, the move down in size has presented problems, as it has for so many other people.

We are now living on the southern edge of Warminster with fine views over towards the forests of the Longleat estate. We are just beginning to get to know people at the church where we are worshipping and generally finding our way round again.

May we both express our gratitude for the generous gifts and generosity of words given during our final weekend in Dorchester. We will never forget our years there. We now pray for a problem-free appointment of a new Team Rector in June – if the new Team Rector enjoys the years in Dorchester as much as we have then they will indeed be blessed!

To end – just a brief anecdote.. After my final service I went to stay with friends in Basle in Switzerland. I especially went there as it was time for the annual carnival (which falls on the first Monday after Ash Wednesday – Basle is an old Protestant city). On Ash Wednesday I was able to attend Mass in the town centre Catholic Church. I then discovered the Old Catholic Church in Basle – it is a Church with which the Church of England is in full communion. Along I went on the first Sunday in Lent only to discover that they had postponed Lent until the Carnival was over – Ash “Wednesday” for them was in fact the Friday of that week, by which time the carnival would be completed. Ah well!

Best wishes to everyone.
Harold and Carol Stephens

Prayer for the Queen

To mark the 60th Anniversary of the Coronation of HM Queen Elizabeth II a special prayer has been written by Westminster Abbey. This new prayer will be used during the Service to be held in the Abbey on 4th June 2013.

The Dean of Westminster, the Very Reverend Dr John Hall, said: ‘This prayer expresses our thanks to God for The Queen’s long and duteous reign and for Her Majesty’s example of faithful and committed service to the nation and Commonwealth.’

The Prayer has been commended for use throughout the Church of England by the Archbishops of Canterbury and York on or around 4th June 2013.

The traditional language version of the prayer:
Almighty God,
who through anointing with the oil of gladness at the hands of priests and prophets
dost strengthen thy chosen servants with the gifts of thy Holy Spirit:
be pleased to accept our joyful praise as with united voice
we give thanks for the long and glorious reign of our Sovereign Lady Queen Elizabeth;
and to receive our humble prayer that, by renewing thy blessings,
thou wilt pour upon her thy choicest gifts,
and upon all thy people the spirit of humility and service,
shown forth in the life and death of him who is the anointed King of all,
our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.
Amen.

David
Bowen

The grandson of a German Jewish immigrant, the son of divorced parents and a senior executive in the oil industry does not sound the typical background for an Archbishop of

Canterbury. Perhaps being a member of the family of R. A. Butler, the stepson of a member of the House of Lords, an Old Etonian and graduate of Trinity College, Cambridge is more expected. But the Most Rev. and Rt. Hon. Justin Portal Welby, 105th Archbishop of Canterbury, Primate of All England and Metropolitan, is all those things.

Before Canterbury, Archbishop Justin was Bishop of Durham, but only for a year. Previously Dean of Liverpool, after a Residentiary Canonry at Coventry (where he led on international ministry at the International Centre for Reconciliation), he had ten years parish experience in the Coventry Diocese. Our new Archbishop came to faith at Holy Trinity, Brompton, the home of Alpha. When as Mr. Welby he enquired about ordination, the then Bishop of Kensington told him, 'There is no place for you in the Church of England'. Even Bishops can be wrong!

Last month, many of us watched as he was placed in the Chair of Augustine in the packed Cathedral in Canterbury. A much grander ceremony than that which saw Pope Francis begin his new ministry, the enthronement was attended by the great and the good of this Country (the Prince of Wales representing the Queen, the Prime Minister and other leading politicians, all the English Bishops, representatives of other Christian Churches in what we see as strange attire, and more ladies in hats than you could shake a stick at). But significantly, the Primates of our sister Anglican Churches across the world were also there. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the leader (but not the 'President' or 'Chief Executive') of

the worldwide Anglican Communion and that may be Archbishop Justin's greatest problem.

Rowan Williams, the previous Archbishop, certainly found it a difficulty. For while the Anglican Churches in Africa and elsewhere are growing in numbers and influence, there are tensions. What should the Anglican Churches do about the ordination of women to the episcopate? What is their attitude to the ordination of gay men and women? Where is authority to be found? Can

Anglicanism stand as a united group of individual Churches or are its differences greater than its similarities? These are just some of the issues **which** Archbishop Justin will face in the coming years. However, there are signs of hope.

At the great west door of the Cathedral, the Archbishop was challenged by a 17 year old girl representing the Anglican

Communion. Evangeline Kanagsooriam, a pupil at King's School, Canterbury and of Sri Lankan origin, asked him, 'Who are you?' The reply tells us a lot about the new Archbishop. 'I am Justin, a servant of Christ.' He went on, 'I know nothing except Jesus Christ, and him crucified,' adding that he came 'in weakness and in fear, and much trembling' and so he was admitted to his Cathedral. That humility and grace, coupled with his experience of reconciliation and international ministry, may provide Archbishop Justin with opportunities to mend the cracks in Anglicanism.

In favour of the ordination of women as Bishops, Archbishop Justin described the decision of the General Synod not to proceed at present as, 'A very grim day'. With regard to same-sex marriage he maintains the Church's opposition, but rejects the exclusion of gays as contrary to Christ's command to love. He also said, 'You see gay relationships that are just stunning in the quality of the relationship' and has friends in whose lives he recognises that and, at the same time, feels challenged by it.

While Ed Thornton in the *Church Times* felt that the conservative Primates of the Global South remain wary of Archbishop Justin, his broad evangelicalism and his Benedictine spirituality may well win them over. That will not be an easy task but, as the Archbishop said at the end of his sermon in the Cathedral, 'We are called to step out of the comfort of our own traditions and places, and go into the waves, reaching for the hand of Christ. Let us provoke each other to heed the call of Christ, to be clear in our declaration of Christ, committed in prayer to Christ, and we will see the world transformed'.



(Continued from left)

With the approval of Her Majesty The Queen, the Prayer is to be incorporated in the [Service of Thanksgiving on the 60th anniversary of Her Majesty's Coronation](#) in



Westminster Abbey on Tuesday 4th June 2013. The Archbishops of Canterbury and York have commended it for use in either the traditional or modern language version throughout the Church of England. Other churches are also welcome to use this prayer.

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 5th May – Easter 6
9am BCP Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist

Thursday 9th May – Ascension Day
7am Tower Top Service (Breakfast)
10am Said Eucharist

Sunday 11th May
6.30pm Confirmation Service at Salisbury Cathedral
including confirmands: Sammi Bickel, Marj Snape, Jenny
Featherstone and young people from the Boys' Brigade.

Sunday 12th May – Easter 7/Ascension Sunday
9am BCP Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist
3pm Boys' Brigade Service

Sunday 19th May – Pentecost
9am BCP Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist with Baptism of Lewis Petherick
6.30pm Choral Evensong

Tuesday 21st May – 7.30pm Archdeacon's Visitation
Sung Eucharist

Sunday 26th May – Trinity Sunday
9am BCP Communion
10.30am Sung Eucharist

Social & Fund-raising Events

On Thursday 9th May – Ascension Day the popular 'Tower Top' service will take place at 7am followed by breakfast in the hall (at about 7.30am). Please sign the list in church if you would like breakfast. Alistair Chisholm the Town Crier will send up the cry and one or two or more of the choir plan to set their alarms early enough arrive in time to sing the anthem 'God has gone up'.

On Sat 1st June – More Tea Vicar? – 2pm-4pm – a social and fund-raising event at The Vicarage (38 Herringston Road DT1 2BS). Cream Tea – afternoon coffee – cold drinks – cakes – raffle – socialise... **All welcome.** Information to follow – in pews news/posters/church notices.

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



*If you can put a bunch of flowers into a vase this is for you!

People

It is risky to mention anyone in particular re: their birthday; some would rather not be reminded and others will inevitably feel left out if not mentioned by name. If we sing Happy Birthday every Sunday – which could happen (!) then it would lose its impact. Suffice to say that there are a few (more than seven) 'zero' birthdays from within the congregation this year, SO...

HAPPY BIRTHDAY  to you (all).

The reader will notice from diary dates above that this month Sammi Bickel, Marj Snape, Jenny Featherstone and young people from the Boys' Brigade will be confirmed by

the Bishop in Salisbury Cathedral (Saturday 11th May). You are welcome to attend the service, which begins at 6.30pm – the eight candidates from St Peter’s will be part of a total of 55 to be Confirmed that evening. The service will last approx 1hr 15mins.

On Sunday 12th May in the afternoon there will be a **Regional Boys’ Brigade** service at St Peter’s which will include a teaching communion and first communions. Please keep Sammi, Marj, Jenny, Ben, Timothy, Kathryn and James in your prayers. Also for your prayers: young **Lewis Petherick** who will be Baptised at St Peter’s on Pentecost Sunday during the 10.30am Eucharist Service, and all couples preparing for Marriage – including Ellis and Jules, Jed and Sammi, and all whose Banns have been read in church recently.

Rest in Peace

Jean Blow (‘9 o’clock’ congregation and Mothers’ Union) will be missed – she died last month, age 91 – her funeral took place at St Peter’s on 25th April and included beautiful readings, hymns and music she had given in her instructions: Psalm 23, John 14; the choir sang ‘God be in my head’ and led the Nunc Dimittis. Please keep Jean’s family in your prayers, especially Tony and Penny her son and daughter.

Archdeacon’s Visitation

It will be a privilege to welcome Archdeacon Paul, Diocesan Registrar Andrew Johnson and Churchwardens on **Tuesday 21st May** for the ‘visitation’ when wardens from around the Diocese (including our own Mike and Brian) will be sworn in for the year ahead. The service will be a Sung Eucharist – you are welcome to attend. It begins at 7.30pm and could take up to 1hr 30mins, depending on how many attend [and the length of the Archdeacon’s homily...?]

Dorchester Art Club

This friendly group meets most Monday evenings and Thursday afternoons at St. George's Hall, Fordington. £1 including refreshments. New members always welcome. For details: see www.DorchesterArtClub.co.uk or phone: 01305 264568

St Andrew's Church West Stafford

Church Correspondent: Revd Jane Culliford



For your Diary

4th May – Wedding of James and Jodie
5th May – Rogation Sunday – 10am Parish Communion
12th May – Easter 7 – 10am Morning Prayer
19th May – Pentecost – 10am Parish Communion
26th May – Trinity Sunday
 9am Holy Communion
 10am Come and Worship
31st May – Memorial Service for Julie Shaw

Pentecost

The Feast of Pentecost will be celebrated on 19th May at the 10am Parish Communion. Following the service there will be a Pentecost Party, a 'bring and share' lunch in St George's Church for all to join in celebrating the birthday of the church. Limited parking – car sharing is advisable.

Christian Aid

After a long, dull and gloomy winter we long for some colour in our lives and are delighted by the brightly coloured flowers that open in May. The bright red Christian Aid Envelopes with their slogan this year 'Bite back at Hunger' bring more than cheer, they are a sign of hope for a needy world. Please donate generously. The Christian Aid Service is on 12th May at St George's Church at 6.30pm.

Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting held on 7th April Tim Dennis and Esther Brown were re-elected as churchwardens. Laurreta Kerridge was elected to represent St Andrew's on the PCC. Michael Edwards, Eileen Edwards, Jill Shepherd,

Felicity Murray and Kaye Kerridge, were elected to the church council, while Jenny Dennis LLM(P) remains ex officio on the PCC and church council. Thanks were given to all who had served the church in the past year on the Church Council, as sides people, readers and intercessors, flower arrangers and churchyard mowers but particularly Gerry Sweetman our organist and Wendy Vallance our verger.

Thank You

For past year or two there has been a box by the font for donations of non perishable food. Although there is a Foodbank in Dorchester, those struggling to feed their families who live in rural areas find it difficult to afford the bus fare to town. So, our gifts have been used to meet the needs of those in neighbouring villages, mainly in Crossways. We have had a letter from the Rector of that Benefice, Revd Jacquie Birdseye who collects and distributes the food saying thank you and telling us how much our gifts have been welcomed and appreciated. Please continue to give as the need has not gone away.

Songs of Praise

A date not to be missed – There will be a Cream tea and Cakes at St Andrew's Church on 9th June from 3pm and maybe a chance to sit outside in the sun! This will be followed by a Songs of Praise service at 4.30pm with the theme 'Through all the changing scenes of life'. It will be good the welcome friends from across the benefice.

Rogationtide

Although we are less dependant on agriculture than in the past, in Rogationtide in early May we ask God's blessing on the crops as we later give thanks at Harvest.

St Simon & St Jude Winterborne Monkton



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.

We are holding a BRING AND BUY COFFEE MORNING at my house, Southmead, Winterborne Monkton, DT2 9PS on Tuesday 14th May from 10 am – 12 noon. Entrance £2.00. Stalls will include Home-made produce (jams, cakes, pastries, savouries etc) plants, raffles and Cate's cards (no white elephants!). This in the past has always proved a most successful event.

Jan
Shaw

About five years ago Graham gave a talk at our church about one of his visits to the Philippines. This inspired me to begin writing to one of the Kanlungan children.

Eventually this led to 2 ½ weeks in the Philippines during February 2013. I thought I had a rough idea of what to expect but was not prepared for the extent of poverty we encountered, the tremendous faith, love and enthusiasm of the children and staff we spent time with, or for the great riches displayed in huge shopping Malls and business centres a stones throw away from the poor! Definitely a land of contrasts!

Why did I go? Initially, it was because I wanted to meet the boy I'd been supporting. However, in a way this wasn't enough of a reason, after all, I was going to spend a lot of time with many other youngsters. Then, through talking with Graham, I realised that I might be of some use to the children and staff by teaching them craft skills and giving them ideas about things to make and sell.

So what did I do there? I spent most of my time doing textile crafts with the children. We made bags, hats, toy owls, sweat bands, hair clips, Bible covers, book marks, pictures, beaded hearts, felt monsters and a hand puppet. The kids were so enthusiastic! They impressed me with their ability to concentrate for long periods of time and really appreciated the opportunity to learn new skills.

One day, Sol and I spent a lot of time looking for, and eventually buying a sewing machine. It seems Manila is full of very old second hand machines from around the world but very few new machines at sensible prices! I was able to present this to Potter's Hand to further the work there. On the sewing theme, the material there is really inexpensive, by our standards, and there is a huge choice of fabrics.

Towards the end of my stay came one of the highlights, the day with my 'God' son. I was so excited about meeting him! He is a great lad and we had a wonderful trip out on Taal Lake then walked up to the rim of the volcano where we saw the lake which has formed inside the crater of the volcano - beautiful! It was good to get to know Jan-Jan better and to talk about his future.

'Smokey Mountain' is a huge rubbish tip where a small town of people has built up as they



are able to scavenge a living from what others throw away. Under the bridge is another area where many poor families live. Most of these people have no jobs, no proper homes and live by scavenging from filthy areas. However, although they have next to nothing in material terms they do have their pride and try to keep themselves and their homes clean and tidy.

DORCAS TRUST contributes towards improving the lives of the children who live in these conditions. The older youth work on a farm, in the second hand shops and in the wonderful coffee shop where the boys make a delicious chocolate cake! It's good to see that children who seemed to have no hope and no future are growing into responsible adults who are valued and contribute to society. God works in people's hearts to make this happen.

It's a humbling experience when those much, much worse off than yourself (in Western terms) welcome you and feed you. In my one, very comfortable hotel room I had more than the combined possessions of dozens of the people I met in the Philippines. Us who 'have' are so fortunate and should be forever grateful. This trip has really made me appreciate the things Westerners take for granted.

A week after I returned home I was told that the first lot of kids I worked with haven't stopped making bags and puppets since! Apparently the girls used their bags for church on Sunday and had lots of positive comments which spurred them on even more! They are now working on curtains - I'm impressed!

Would I go again? Definitely! Lasting memories - loving, appreciative children, dedicated staff, great poverty, enormous faith, contrast between rich and poor, traffic jams, enthusiasm, a platform in a tree for a home, hygiene & heat, and a little boy sitting in a corner repairing his own T-shirt after learning to sew! Do let me know if you have any clubs/groups who would like an illustrated talk about this trip.



EXCITING NEWS!
DORCHESTER BAPTIST
CHURCH -
ESAC@DBC 8th & 9th Nov
Exhibition and Sale of Arts and
Crafts - do come and bring your
friends!

We will be holding this enormous, exciting event partly in aid of DORCAS. Donations of items gratefully accepted - please email janshaw@uwclub.net



CHURCHES TOGETHER DORCHESTER

Compiled by
Val Potter
264416

The Ecology Group

How can we keep the momentum and awareness of environmental issues? The Churches' Ecology Group held a lively discussion about how to build on the excellent meal and address by Rabbi Neil Amswych earlier this year. St Mary's Church are planning a meal of their own, St George's Church are exploring the possibility of installing solar panels, the United Church have an 'environment slot' in their services once a month and the Quakers have passed a policy motion at national level committing them all to become low carbon communities.

We were delighted to welcome to the group Brother Hugh from Hilfield Friary and we heard about the efforts of their catering manager to use locally sourced food wherever possible, including using hedgerow ingredients to make hay soup and chickweed potage. The comment on the success and flavour of these experiments was a bit muted!

The group are now planning an activity filled day on 17th August, with all age activities and picnic in the Borough Gardens, a walk for the planet to Maiden Castle and a Ceilidh in Martinstown. Put the date in the diary now and if you can help with any of these activities do contact any of the representatives on the group.

More than Food

The South West Churches Forum brought together people working in food banks across the region, to share information, to explore the issues behind the increased use of food banks and to help to develop a response. Ruth Levitas, Sociology Professor at Bristol University, presented statistics from both national surveys on poverty and food bank users themselves.

A shocking 36% of recipients of food are children, and the poverty survey showed that the number of people in England lacking 3 or more basic essentials for living (e.g. damp-free home, 2 meals a day, adequate heating) has doubled since 1989, despite a tightening of the list of items considered essential.

Lively discussion groups followed and many were surprised by all the food banks in rural areas as well as the cities and larger towns. Users were mainly either on low incomes and thrown by a change in circumstance (illness,

unexpected expenditure) or caught up in benefit changes or delays.

All food banks offer a listening ear and many sign-post to other agencies or share premises with other services such as job clubs, money advice or second hand shops. There was a concern that older people are under-represented in usage, despite their eligibility, so it was suggested that information be made available in appropriate places.

The responses are being compiled into a report but the group I facilitated had 3 points for consideration:

- To use opportunities to challenge the myths and stigmatisation of those in need. See www.jointpublicissues.org.uk/truthandliesaboutpoverty
- To engage with the political process to contribute to the debate on economic policies and the priorities for the use of shrinking public funds.
- Whilst acknowledging the need for basic necessities it is important to challenge the materialistic values of the world. True happiness is to be found in loving relationships with each other and inner peace with God.

'When I give bread to the poor they call me a saint, when I ask why they are poor they call me a Communist'
(Bishop Camara of Brazil)

Quiet Space

Plants have been purchased and volunteers have been helping to dig the plot. We are waiting for the soil to dry out a bit, but the signs are good that there will be a garden for peace and relaxation by the summer.

United Church Shop

Those wandering round to look at where the new library will be, (attached to the new District Council offices), may have noticed building work at the entrance to the Gallery of the United Church. The entrance layout is being changed to bring the shop premises forward, so that visitors will enter the shop directly, rather than via a passage and stairs. They will continue to stock cards, books, CDs and other Christian items and I hope to continue to be able to pick up cheap plants there as well.

(Continued from page 27)

Ecumenical Call

As many of you may know, I have been the part-time Ecumenical Officer for Churches Together in Dorset for a long time, and it is time now to move on and for someone else to pick up the role and to develop it in new ways for a new era.

‘The whole Church offering the whole Gospel to the whole inhabited earth!’ This is the vision underpinning the ecumenical journey and which has kept me going for the past 17 years. A wide range of churches are engaged in mission together around our county and conurbation, with lots of shared projects for serving our communities. How can these relationships and projects be encouraged, nurtured and shared to inspire those places where weary, over-stretched people need help to inspire them and maybe to re-prioritise? Our formal Ecumenical Partnerships also need care and we make links with the national ecumenical structures as well.

Please give prayerful thought to see if God may be nudging you or someone you know (lay or ordained) to take on this part time post. The Job Description has been agreed and the process for finding a successor has begun so if this is something that you, or someone you know, may be called to do, ring me for a conversation.

Val Potter 01305 264416



This is Anthony's second book and it is once again based on his exploits in and around Australia.

Flying helicopters in the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy is challenging enough when serving one's own country. So why volunteer to serve somebody else's when the Vietnam War is on? Yet this was how Anthony Holt saw the Seventies.

All over the Pacific Ocean and the South China Seas he flew his Wessex Mk 31B anti-submarine helicopter from HMAS Melbourne, Australia's last aircraft carrier. Whether sky-high over Fiji or deep in the dives of Manila's red-light district, over frothing-mad sharks or under the table during a nightclub shoot-out in Manila, whether dropping sonar buoys or catching fire, he flies us from the Great Barrier Reef to Singapore under Lee Kwan Yu, up into the mists of Mount Fuji and back to the bogs of Dartmoor - sharing with us both the tears of mirth and the tragedy of losing a comrade in peacetime, in a frank and funny portrait of Service life.

Published by Pegasus — ISBN 9781843867937

Remembering the King Billies

Jean
Lang

Monarch butterflies are amazing – measuring 3-4 inches across their wing span and a bright tawny orange they fly over 2500 miles to reach warmer habitat from the United States to Mexico and

back each year.

It takes four generations to accomplish this; the first, mate in March, lay eggs in April which go through the caterpillar to chrysalis to butterfly stage by May. The butterflies survive 2-6 weeks in which time they start the breeding pattern again and this happens again in July / August. However the fourth generation born in September/October migrate to Mexico where they hibernate through the winter for 6-8months flying back to breed again in March. How the knowledge of their flight path is passed from the first to fourth generation is still not entirely understood by the scientists who have been studying them since the 19th century.

The unexpected arrival of millions of Monarch Butterflies to settle in the autumn on a small farm in Tennessee is the backdrop to Barbara Kingsolver's new novel "Flight Behaviour". The farmer's wife (Dellarobia Turnbow) is intent on walking out on her constrained life, her husband and two children but walking up into the hills above the farm she sees, as if in a vision, moving orange flames which glow but do not consume. The butterflies (as they are) turn her around and unexpectedly provide the means to remove her from the drudgery of her existence.

Barbara Kingsolver is back in her home territory of the Appalachians after an excursion to South America in her last novel "Lacuna" and I found this a satisfying return. She has a gift for speech patterns, for character and dialogue.

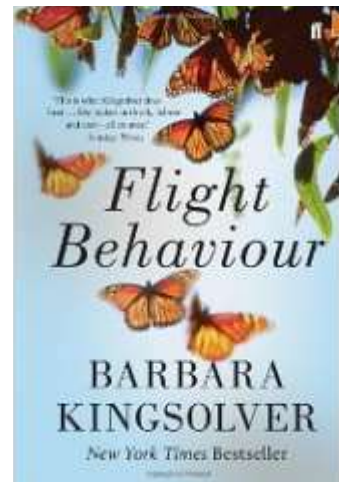
We see Dellarobia dealing with the grinding poverty, dealing with assumptions made by visiting scientists, ecologists and journalists about the ability to think of sustainability when life itself is only just about sustainable. We see her dealing with her mother-in-law who "had answers for questions that had died of natural causes" and with Cub, her husband, good natured, slow of speech and action who finally faces up to his wife's need for a life away from the farm and who is able within his close knit family to accommodate it. We follow the Monarchs (locally called "King Billies" after the royal colours of the 17th century protestant settler's prince William of Orange) as they hang on through a cold and wet winter. We feel the damp seeping in to everything "the rain falling in sheets and gushes, not normal rain, but water flung at windows as if from a bucket".

Finally and as a challenge Barbara Kingsolver presents, through the eyes of Dr Ovid Byron (the scientist who lives on the farm studying the Monarchs over this one rare winter season), the problems of conservation in a society which cannot see beyond practical economic survival today, this week, this month and maybe this year.

Flight Behaviour

By Barbara
Kingsolver

(Faber & Faber)



Editor's Comment

At St George's, and at all our churches, the next few months will bring many weddings. As with the church it is a time for new beginnings and new horizons to tread, so it is for you all. We wish all our wedding couples a wonderful and happy future together, our love and prayers are with you.

Image courtesy of photostock / FreeDigitalPhotos.net