

News & Notes

Issue 289

May 2000

Rogationtide

Westley Cole

The month of May lies within the great fifty days of the Easter Season through Ascension Day on 1 June to the Feast of Pentecost on 11 June. (*Even unto the morrow after the seventh Sabbath shall ye number fifty days* Lev 23 v16.) Five holy days are included in the 2000 calendar for May - 1 St Philip and St James, Apostles, 2 St George (transferred from 23 April), 3 St Mark the Evangelist (transferred from 25 April), 15 St Matthias the Apostle (transferred from 14 May), 31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth.

But for me, as a countryman, of equal importance is Rogationtide - the rotation days which fall on the three days preceding the Ascension - 29, 30, 31 May - together with the sixth Sunday of Easter - 28 May traditionally celebrated as Rogation Sunday - that period when we ask God for good seasonable weather, good crops, and a successful harvest. These days take their name from the Latin "rogare" meaning to beseech or ask and were first instituted by Mamertus, Bishop of Vienna in AD460 and subsequently rationalised by the Council of Orleans in AD511 as time for prayer and fasting and processions around the church accompanied by the chanting of Litanies and Petitions. As time progressed these processions would comprise priest, crucifer, robed choir and a crowd of parishioners together with all the schoolchildren; most of them carrying willow wands topped with flowers.

At various well known parts along the boundary of the parish ie gate, tree, bridge or boundary direction marker (these still survive in some places - on my farm I have discovered three, shaped like saddle stones positioned at points where the boundary changes direction) prayers and litanies would be said and the landmark would be beaten together with either one of the choir or one of the schoolchildren. In days when maps were few and far between and largely inaccurate it provided a sensible way of marking boundaries and impressing them upon the next generation. (Although it has been suggested to me that they could have been the vicar taking a census of the crops to see what tithes were due in the coming financial year.) Although this custom fell into disuse in the nineteenth century, it has made a resurgence in some parts of the country and none more so than at Broad Chalke where there will be a Parish Walk around the Parish Boundary on Monday 29 May, although whether any choirboys will be beaten remains to be seen!

Be that as it may, as we approach Rogationtide for 2000 with farming in the most perilous state it has been for nearly a century, and we pray for the work of the farmers here in the Chalke Valley and we seek God's blessing upon the land and the crops, let us remember Jesus' words in St John 16 v 23 *Very truly I tell you if you ask for anything of the Father in my name, he will give it to you.*

Church Services

Sunday 7 May	8.00 am	Holy Communion	GS	Nunton
Easter 3	9.30 am	Parish Communion	WC	Britford
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	WC	Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong	GS	Homington
Sunday 14 May	8.00 am	Holy Communion	WC	Homington
Easter 4	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	GS	Odstock
	11.00 am	Family Service	GS	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins	AT	Charlton
Sunday 21 May	9.30 am	Matins	WC	Homington
Easter 5	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	BH	Nunton
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	WC	Coombe
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Service	GS	Britford
Sunday 28 May	8.00 am	Holy Communion	WC	Homington
Easter 6	9.30 am	Parish Communion	GS	Charlton
	11.00 am	Matins	GS	Coombe
	11.00 am	Morning Service	WC	Odstock
Sunday 4 June	8.00 am	Holy Communion		Nunton
Easter 7	9.30 am	Parish Communion		Britford
	11.00 am	Parish Communion		Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong		Homington

From the Editor

This month's edition has been paid for by our advertisers and several smaller donations - all very valuable - thank you. The monthly production cost of *News & Notes* is £32.50. If you would like to sponsor an issue, please get in touch! Editorial items for inclusion in *News & Notes* should be sent to Clare Penny at Azalea Cottage, Chapel Lane, Charlton All Saints, SP5 4HF, telephone 01725 512869 or email clare@azalea.demon.co.uk. Monetary donations should be sent to Neil Guttridge, *News & Notes* Treasurer, on 01725 511468 or at Court-Hay, Lower Road, Charlton All Saints, SP5 4HQ. Notices of charity and non-profit making events are inserted free, but all other advertisements are charged at £2 per 30 words, or £20 for 12 insertions. The deadline for the June issue is Friday 19 May.

Additional Holy Days in May

- 1 Saints Philip and James, Apostles 10.00 am Holy Communion at Charlton
 - 2 St George, Martyr, Patron of England 8.00 am Holy Communion at Homington
 - 3 St Mark the Evangelist 8.00 am Holy Communion at Nunton
 - 15 St Matthias, Apostle 8.00 am Holy Communion at Nunton
 - 31 Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary to Elizabeth 8.00 am Holy Communion at Nunton
- Rogation Days fall on Monday 29, Tuesday 30 and Wednesday 31 May
- 1 June Ascension Day 7.00 am Holy Communion at Gurston Hill Farm, Broad Chalke (bring your own breakfast!)

From the Registers

Burials

- 14 April at Nunton: Harold Peter Powell (cremated remains)

Christian Aid Week: 14 - 20 May

We shall be collecting for Christian Aid throughout the villages during the week beginning 14 May. If you would like to help this very worthwhile cause by delivering and/or collecting envelopes in Odstock, Nunton, Bodenham or Britford please contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862. As usual Peter Cox will kindly be arranging the collection in Charlton All Saints.

Britford Parish AGM

The Annual General Meeting of Britford Parish will take place on 7 June at the Britford Memorial Hall at 7 pm. Mr Graham Wright of Salisbury Joint Transportation Team will give a presentation on the Park and Ride Scheme.

WI

The President, Mrs Sue Bourne, welcomed 34 members to the Barker Room for the April meeting. She also welcomed two new members to the Committee, Mrs Pat Reeves and Mrs Diane Wait.

On 8 May there will be an "historic walk" in Wilton, which will start at 2 pm. Mr David Richards, who is an experienced Blue Guide, will be conducting the walk and this is expected to last for approximately one and a half hours. The cost is £3.00 per member.

The Downland Group Tea will be held at the Memorial Hall, Downton, on Monday 15 May and will be hosted by members. Mr James Mitchell will provide the entertainment by singing some of his favourite songs.

Mrs Jean Van Hagen, who is recovering well from her recent hip operation, has agreed to be the official delegate to attend the TGM at Wembley Arena on 7 June.

One of the attractions at the forthcoming Garden Party on 12 June will be a display of hats by Tiffanys and modelled by members. Not to be missed!

Members were asked to vote on where they would like to visit for the Summer Outing on 17 July, and the popular choice was Bowood House and Gardens, Calne, and Lacock Abbey.

A letter of thanks was read out from the PCC expressing thanks to members for their generous contribution to the new Barker Room toilets.

Congratulations to Mrs Jennifer Cowan, who won the Flower of the Month competition with her beautiful double pink Camellia.

The speaker was Mrs Brenda Slade, who works as a volunteer at Westminster Abbey restoring historic and beautiful vestments and altar frontals. Her talk, entitled "Holy Threads" accompanied by slides, showed some of the beautiful restoration work in which she has been involved since 1983. The subject proved quite fascinating to members who were able to ask a variety of questions and this made for a most interesting and informative talk.

The next meeting will be on 8 May in the Barker Room, Nunton. This meeting will discuss three resolutions to be voted on at the TGM on 7 June.

Derby Day Coffee Morning

The Ebble Valley Branch of the Conservative Association will hold a coffee morning on Saturday 10 June at Melstock, Nunton. Stalls - Bring and Buy, Nearly New, Plants, Derby Sweepstake and Raffle. Everyone welcome, and please bring your friends.

Rubbish Skip

There will be a skip positioned on Britford Lower Road at the Depot for the week beginning 29 May.

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Britford Plant Sale

On Saturday 6 May there will be a Plant Sale in Britford Village Hall from 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm. There will be other stalls - bric-a-brac, books etc, and coffee and tea will be available. Contributions to the sale would be most welcome. For further information, please phone 01722 334858.

The Radnor Hall is to Continue!

Debby Underhill

Over the last few weeks every household in Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham has received a questionnaire about the future of the Radnor Hall. At the Annual General Meeting on 17 April, Harry Joynt reported that there had been 60 replies (about 30%) with 35 in favour of trying to keep it going and promoting its use. 22 wanted it kept open, even if it was used only occasionally. One household couldn't see much point in keeping it going, but none wanted it closed.

There were ideas that there should be a monthly coffee morning - would you like to run it or be involved?

Another idea was that there should be a new Hall designed to meet the local needs. What are they?

The Committee is going to decorate the hall, provide new curtains and a new boiler, and do up the kitchen if there is any money left over.

The reason for the questionnaire was because the lease with Longford Estate runs out next year and it will be much more expensive with a new lease.

There was a big farewell to Peter Ford who resigned as Chairman. He has been involved with Hall for 52 years. He was presented with a picture of the Hall painted by the well-known local artist Julia Joynt and an engraved tankard for his devoted service to the hall. He was delighted that it will continue.

A new committee of 9 people was elected. The cost to rent the hall remains very reasonable and hasn't gone up yet. If you would like to book the hall or want more details ring Warren and Lorelei the Caretakers on 01722 329760. It is a lovely hall with lots of character.

Wanted

A couple of old harmonium/organs - any condition - for repair - to keep me occupied in my old age. Can you help, please? Contact Jack Evers on 01722 340397.

Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham Village Fête - Grand Draw

Adrian Taylor

Tickets for the Grand Draw will soon be distributed for sale throughout Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham and will also be sold at the Fête on 8 July. If you have not been involved before and feel you could help by selling some tickets before the Fête, please contact Adrian Taylor (Nunton) on 01722 325862, Gill Smedley (Odstock) on 01722 329488 or Susie Jenkins (Bodenham) on 01722 329748. We shall also need draw prizes and will be delighted to receive any that you are able to donate. Many thanks.

Ebble Community Pre-School

The Pre-school is having its first AGM on Thursday 4 May, at 7.30 pm at Odstock Primary School. Everyone is



welcome to come and see what the Pre-School has achieved in its first year.

We have a new Playleader, who will be starting on Tuesday 2 May with a new theme. Please contact Sharon Chandler 01722 329719 for information.

On Saturday 20 May, we are having a sponsored pedal in the school playground at 10.30 am. Please support us. We also plan to have a raffle, white elephant stall and a cake stall, and any contributions will be gratefully received. We are running the wine and water stall for the Nunton and Odstock Fete, and are in great need of bottles of wine! We can collect - please call Sharon Chandler on 01722 329719.

Odstock School Jumble Sale

There will be a jumble sale at Odstock School on Saturday 6 May at 2 pm. There will also be a cake stall.

Downton Link

Anne Blake

The Link Coffee Pot opens on 8 May on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays to offer coffee, chat and company from 10.00 am - 12.00 noon at Downton Memorial Hall.



Transport is available by telephoning Downton Link on 01725-513807. This new venture needs your support please! We look forward to your company.

Britford Primary School

Diane Weekes, Headteacher

Britford Primary School was lucky enough to be invited to take Y5 & Y6 to join with other schools from the Salisbury Diocese in the Millennium Service held in Salisbury Cathedral on 26 January. The children were taken on a journey with "Micro the Millennium Discoverer" in his quest to find out more about Jesus. The service included singing, dancing and music of many kinds. As did all the schools, we took a prayer to be put in a Book of Prayers, which will be on view in St Lawrence's chapel.

The children thoroughly enjoyed the occasion and will remember the experience for many years to come. One of our pupils wrote in reflection of the event, "After the service I left feeling much more confident in Jesus" and "Despite it being freezing cold outside, I had a warm feeling inside".

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Contact Numbers

<i>Team Rector</i>	Canon Sydney Willcox, The Rectory, Broad Chalke 01722 780262 (Day off - Mon)
<i>Team Vicar</i>	Revd Roger Redding, Vicarage, Ebbesbourne Wake 01722 780408 (Day off - Mon)
<i>Team Vicar</i>	Revd Dr Graham Southgate, Nunton Vicarage 01722 330628 (Day off - Fri)
<i>Churchwardens</i>	Nunton - Harry Joynt 01722 329782 Odstock - Peter Martin 01722 329743 Charlton - Peter Cox 01722 329709 Britford - Daphne Scamell 01722 334858

Regular Events

WI	Second Monday of the month, 10.00 am Barker Room, Nunton
Junior Church	To coincide with 9.30 am services at Nunton or Odstock Churches, held at the Barker Room, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Tiny Tots	Every Wednesday, 2 - 4 pm The Radnor Hall, Bodenham
Whist Drive	Every Thursday, 7.30 pm Barker Room, Nunton
Singing Group	Every Monday, 8.00 pm, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Ebble Pre-school	Monday-Thursday 9.00 am - 12.30 contact Sharon Chandler 01722 329719
Mobile Library	Alternate Fridays (5 & 19 May): Village Hut, Charlton 10.00 - 10.15 am Alternate Tuesdays: Brookmead, Britford 10.35 am Post Office, Bodenham 10.55 am Radnor Arms, Nunton 11.10 am Crossroads, Odstock 11.35 am

Dates for your Diary

4 May	Ebble Valley Pre-School AGM, 7.30 pm Odstock School
6 May	Britford Plant Sale, Britford Village Hall 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm
6 May	Odstock School Jumble Sale, 2 pm
7 May	Journey of a Lifetime, Tarrant Valley
20 May	Pre-School Sponsored Pedal, 10.30 am Odstock School
22 May	Charlton Garden Society meeting, 7.30 pm Charlton Church Hall
7 June	Britford Parish AGM, 7.00 pm Britford Memorial Hall
10 June	Derby Day Coffee Morning, Melstock, Nunton
24 & 25 June	Britford Millennium Weekend
1 July	Charlton Village Barbecue
7 July	Charlton Garden Society outing to MacPenny's Nursery
8 July	Nunton, Odstock & Bodenham Fete
23 September	Charlton Harvest Supper
4/5 November	Charlton Bonfire Night
14 October	Charlton Autumn Sale