

News and Notes

Issue 334

February 2004

February et al

February this year has five Sundays – a rare occurrence if my calculations are correct. This occurs on a twenty eight year cycle except when the hundreds are not a leap year when the interval is 40 years. Thus the last time it occurred was 1976 and the next will be 2032 so we shall not have to invoke the Chalke Valley fifth Sunday routine in February until then. As a student of hagiology I can find no Saints whose festival occurs on 29th February. That's the end of the Mathematics and History lesson – now to February.....

February 2nd is the principal feast of the **Presentation of Christ in the Temple**. This day marks the completion of forty days since the birth of Jesus, when Mary and Joseph took the child to the Temple in Jerusalem. The requirement in Levitical law was for Mary to be 'cleansed', the completion of her purification following the birth of a male child. Until that day, she could touch no holy thing, not enter the sanctuary. Yet on seeing the holy family, Simeon praised God and acclaimed the infant as '*the light to enlighten the nations*' and the prophet Anna gave thanks and proclaimed him her Redeemer. The image of Christ as the Light has led to the celebration of light countering darkness with beeswax candles being blessed, distributed and carried in procession – giving this day its name – **Candlemas**.

Ash Wednesday this year falls on 25th February when we begin our Lenten discipline. Discipline is a sadly neglected word in this modern day and age, but to be a true Christian, we must become a *disciple* of Christ and we must accept His *discipl-ine* not only during Lent but throughout our lives.

February 27th marks the Lesser Festival of **George Herbert, Priest**. George Herbert was born in 1593 into the Pembroke family of Wilton and he went up to Cambridge in 1614, eventually becoming a fellow of Trinity College. At the age of twenty-five, he became Public Orator in the University and then a Member of Parliament, apparently destined for a life at court. To everyone's surprise he decided to be ordained and, after spending a time with his friend Nicholas Ferrar at Little Gidding, he was made Deacon in 1626. He married in 1629 – was priested in 1630 and given the cure of souls of Saint Andrew's, Bemerton, where he spent the rest of his short life. He wrote prolifically, his many hymns still being very popular throughout the English-speaking world. His treatise, *The Country Parson*, on the priestly life, and his poetry, especially *The Temple*, earned George Herbert a leading place in English literature. He never neglected the care of the souls of Bemerton, however, and encouraged attendance at the weekday recitation of the daily office, calling to mind the words of his hymn, '*Seven whole days, not one in seven, I will praise thee*' He died on 27th February 1633, aged just 40 years

Westley Cole

Lent 2004

The Lent Project chosen by the Team Council this year is to raise money for the **Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed** (CRP) in Bangladesh. The centre not only helps the paralysed but their families too. There will be an illustrated talk about the CRP by Daphne Woolnough on Friday, 27th February at Coombe Bissett Village Hall – doors open at 7.00pm to view a display and the talk starts at 7.30pm. Contact Shirley Evans (01722 718709) for more details.

A Lent Project Breakfast (8.30am, 9th March, East Mead, Coombe Bissett - £2.00) and a Lent Project Lunch (12.30pm, 20th March, Longford Farmhouse - £2.50) have been arranged and any other events will be in next month's *News and Notes*.

Lent Groups will be held during March, on Tuesdays (except Wed 17th) at 8.00pm in the Barker Room, Nunton and Wednesdays at 3.00pm at the home of Helen Bains, Coombe Bissett. See back page for contact details. The five week course is entitled "Tough Talk from Jesus" and there is a charge of £3 per person to cover the cost of the materials. The sessions should be thought-provoking and enjoyable.

Please see back page for details of Church of England services

From the Editor

If you have items for inclusion in *News and Notes*, please send them to me, Adrian Taylor, Florida, Nunton Drove, Nunton SP5 4HZ, tel: 01722 325862, email: vcmtaylor@msn.com.

Monetary donations should be sent to our Treasurer, Neil Guttridge, Court-Hay, Lower Road, Charlton All Saints, Salisbury SP5 4HQ, telephone 01725 511468.

The deadline for the March 2004 edition is Friday, 20th February 2004. *If you are a regular contributor and would like an email reminder of the deadline each month, please send an email to the address above.*

Holy Days in February

- 2nd Presentation of Christ - Holy Communion
8.00am, Coombe Bissett
- 25th Ash Wednesday - Parish Communion,
7.30pm, Coombe Bissett

WI

Diane Wait

Despite the inclement weather, the 12th January meeting was well attended and Mrs Julia Joynt (President) was on hand to greet us and wish everyone a very happy new year. Rita Hobbs made the President's table look very cheerful with a lovely display of daffodils and tulips. Following the prayer the meeting commenced with a brief discussion about forthcoming scrabble and skittles matches, and Mrs Val Martyn reported that members had really enjoyed seeing the Pantomime Aladdin. Julia then took the opportunity of thanking Miss Judith Johnson for arranging the excellent Christmas Lunch at the Radnor Arms.

Mrs Margaret Barrow (Treasurer) read out her financial report and thanked everyone who had so willingly helped with the successful raffle and Bring and Buy stall at the Christmas Party. She has also drawn up a short list of duties required by the monthly hostesses, which will give much needed assistance to those not too familiar with them. Mrs Jean Van Hagen (Secretary) read out the correspondence which included an invitation by Downton Evening WI to join them for their popular annual Skittles Evening in Downton Leisure Centre on February 10 at 7.30 pm. The cost is £4.00 per member which includes a delicious supper and drink. She also mentioned the AGM Countdown Meeting at Laverstock Village Hall on 28th April when the forthcoming annual Resolutions will be debated. Mrs Sue Bourne was the successful winner of flower of the month with a very pretty pink Viburnum Fraxinifolium.

Following the coffee break we enjoyed an enthralling talk given by Mrs Dorothy Allison on the subject of the Salisbury Women's Refuge, which was started by

the Salisbury Soroptimists in 1982. When it first came into being it could only accommodate five families but as a result of two ambitious building extensions can now house up to twelve families at any one time. The Refuge is a much needed haven for mothers and children who come from vulnerable situations, and it receives fantastic support from so many quarters, including the police, doctors, nurses, health visitors, district nurses, domestic violence teams and members of the legal profession to name just a few. It was truly inspiring learning how the Refuge is run and how it helps families in need of a temporary safe place to stay and helps them to get their lives back on track. At the end of her talk Dorothy was inundated with questions and finally Rita was able to give her a most appreciative vote of thanks for a truly memorable discussion.

The next meeting is on 9th February when Commodore Ian Gibb will follow up his visit in 2003 with a talk about Trinity House. He really is a wonderful speaker and we would love to welcome as many guests as possible to this meeting, which commences at 10 am in the Radnor Hall. You will all receive a very warm welcome.

It was with great sadness that Julia Joynt told us of the sudden death of Joan Dixon's husband, Stephen. We were all very shocked by this news and everyone wishes to send Joan and her family our love and sympathies at this very sad time. Joan herself has not felt too well recently and we sincerely hope that her health will improve in time, so that when she feels like it, we can give her a warm and loving welcome back to our meetings where she has been very much missed.

Odstock Primary School News

A member of the Sarum Chamber Orchestra visited school to run a music workshop with most of the children. Following this, the older children will be joining other schools in a concert at the end of the month.

We had a visit from Enable who performed an anti bullying playlet for the children.

Some of our families attended the recent Christingle service at Odstock Church and were responsible for the readings.

Our after school football team have now got their own football kit, thanks to a donation from the PFA. They are going to christen it by playing a friendly match against Alderbury & West Grimstead school. Matches against other schools will be arranged in due course.

The PFA are planning a quiz night on 6th February at school and a beetle drive for 26 March. Please feel free to come along and support these events, further details are available through the school office during the mornings.

From the Team Rector, David Henley

Appointment of a New Team Vicar

The process of selection has begun again with an advertisement in the Church Times on 23rd January. Interviews are scheduled to take place on Thursday, 4th March. Please pray for all involved over these coming weeks.

Interim Associate Priest

We are delighted that while we wait for the appointment of a new Team Vicar, Revd. Pat Clegg is coming to help us as an Interim Priest over the next few months. **She will be officially welcomed by the Ven. Alan Jeans, Archdeacon of Sarum, at Parish Communion at Odstock at 9.30 on 8th February**, but will begin working in the valley from the beginning of the month. In addition to Sundays, she will be working during the week with schools, lent groups and PCC and other meetings, particularly at the eastern end of the benefice. Please remember that her day off is Monday and she also regularly works in Sarum College on Tuesdays. She is most welcome.

Pat writes.... "I am married to Chris and have 4 children and 3 adorable grandchildren! We first fell in love with this area when celebrating our 10th wedding anniversary. After then, we came down regularly from Bromley in Kent with our caravan, staying at Lower Pennings Farm. We eventually moved to Harnham in May 1995. I am looking forward to working with the Chalke Team and getting to know everyone during this time before the new vicar is appointed. Please say "Hello" if you find a strange clergywoman wandering about looking lost." (Pat's phone number. is 07906 587982)

Thanks

I would like to thank all the many people who sent cards and kind messages at Christmas - these were much appreciated. Thank you also to the many people who contributed to the preparing and leading of Christmas services across the valley. We have had some wonderful, well attended services of all kinds over Advent, Christmas and Epiphany and it has given us an encouraging start to the year ahead.

Carol Singing and the Children's Society

Adrian Taylor

Many thanks to those in Odstock and Nunton who went carol singing before Christmas and to all those who contributed so generously to the Children's Society. We raised very nearly £300.

The Children's Society does a great deal of good work among children who are disadvantaged at home, at school and in society. If you would like to contribute during the rest of the year, I have some boxes which will very conveniently take your loose change! When a box is full, I will arrange for the funds to go to help the children. Please call me on 01722 325862 if you would like a box.

How much do you care about rights of way in your countryside ?

Included at the request of John Withers

Since the Countryside & Rights of Way Act 2000 came into law many lovers of the quality of our paths and byways have been concerned about the increase of damage caused by the use and over-use of motorised vehicles. Much of the damage is due to the ill-conceived CROW Act and has reached a state where ancient tracks of all types have become impassable on foot, horseback and even by off-road vehicles themselves. Indigenous plants and wildlife are disturbed and threatened with extinction. Peaceful walks are now at hazard from organised off-road groups, lone vehicles and trail bikes.

The government has decided that the time has come not only to curb the over-use of motor vehicles on rights of way but to prevent the increase of byways open to all traffic by modification of paths using outdated laws based on the principle of "once a carriageway – always a carriageway." The Minister of Rural Affairs, Alun Michael, has issued a consultation paper that aims to repeal parts of the CROW Act and make other legislative changes relevant to this important subject.

The consultation period will end on 19th March 2004 and up to that date members of the public, farmers, land owners, walkers, riders on horseback or vehicles, in fact anyone with an interest in the quality of our countryside, etc, have the right to respond to the paper titled "The use of mechanically propelled vehicles on rights of way". Its thirty pages are no different to most legal communications – they can be difficult to understand. The response is now more difficult because the paper has not been distributed at the outset other than to Highway authorities and user groups – but not directly to local councils or rural populations.

The South Wiltshire Rights of Way Preservation Group, which has campaigned against the CROW Act since the consultation in 1998 that created it, has sought the co-operation of parish councils in the south of the county in order to conduct open meetings to achieve two aims. First, we want to ensure that electors in parishes are aware of the facts in the consultation and second that they can be given an open choice document to use in response to the seven DEFRA proposals.

**AN "AWARENESS" MEETING HAS BEEN
ARRANGED FOR YOUR COMMUNITY AT
COOMBE BISSETT VILLAGE HALL
at 7pm on Tuesday, 24th February 2004**

If you value rights of way in rural England please come and respond to this government initiative! For further information call 01722 780443.

Church of England Services

Sunday 1st February Epiphany 4	8.00 am 9.30 am 11.00 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion Parish Communion Evening Prayer BCP	Nunton Britford Coombe Bissett Homington	WC DH VW WC
Sunday 8th February 3 before Lent	8.00 am 9.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion (JC) Family Service Morning Prayer BCP	Homington Odstock Coombe Bissett Charlton All Saints	WC AJ AJ WC
Sunday 15th February 2 before Lent	8.00 am 9.30 am 9.30 am 11.00am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion (JC) Morning Service Parish Communion BCP	Britford Nunton Homington Coombe Bissett	WC JK PAC WC
Sunday 22nd February Sunday next before Lent	8.00 am 9.30 am 11.00 am 11.00 am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion Morning Prayer BCP Morning Service	Homington Charlton All Saints Coombe Bissett Odstock	WC JK SE PAC
Sunday 29th February 1st Sunday of Lent	10.00am	Parish Communion	Nunton	WC/VW
DH = Revd Canon David Henley, WC = Revd Westley Cole, VW = Revd Canon Vernon White, AJ = Ven Alan Jeans, Archdeacon, PAC = Revd Pat Clegg, SE = Shirley Evans, JK = The Right Revd John Kirkham BCP = Book of Common Prayer, (JC) = Junior Church				

Regular Events

WI	Second Monday of the month, 10.00 am Radnor Hall, Bodenham
Junior Church	To co-incide with 9.30 am service at Nunton or Odstock Churches (except August), held at the Barker Room, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Whist Drive	Every Thursday, 7.30 pm Barker Room, Nunton
Singing Group	Every Monday, 8.00 pm, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Tiny Tots	Every Wednesday 9.30 – 11.30 am, Radnor Hall, Bodenham, contact Suzie Orchiton on 01722 502026
Mobile Library	Alternate Wednesdays (11 th & 25 th): Brookmead, Britford 10.00 – 10.20 am Phone Box, Charlton 10.30 – 10.45 am, Radnor Arms, Nunton 11.00 – 11.20 am

Dates for Your Diary

6 th February	Quiz Night – Odstock Primary school
18 th February	Countryside and Rights of Way “Awareness” meeting, Coombe Bissett Village Hall. 7.00pm (<i>details above</i>)
23 rd February	Charlton All Saints Garden Society
26 th February	Lent Project talk about The Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Paralysed – Coombe Bissett Village Hall - doors open at 7.00pm, talk starts at 7.30pm
29 th February	Salisbury Guildhall Tours – see below
2 nd March	First Lent Group in Nunton, 8.00pm– see below for other dates, venue and contacts
3 rd March	First Lent Group in Coombe Bissett 3.00pm – see below for other dates, venue and contacts
9 th March	Lent Project Breakfast, East Mead Coombe Bissett, (01722 718709), 8.30am - £2.00
20 th March	Lent Project Lunch, Longford Farmhouse, Nunton (01722 329769), 12.30pm - £2.50
26 th March	Beetle Drive – Odstock Primary School
1 st April	“Collegium Regale” sing at Bishopstone Church at 7.30pm, cost £10, call 01722 780741/01722 780447
15 th May	The Hemingford Ladies Choir, All Saints Broad Chalke, cost £6, call 01722 780052/01725 519242

Lent Groups

Nunton, Barker Room, 8.00pm, Tuesdays in March except Wed, 17 th – contact Adrian Taylor (01722 325862)
Coombe Bissett, 3.00pm, Wednesdays in March – contact Helen Bains (01722 781395)

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Salisbury Guildhall Tours

On Sunday, 29th February, to celebrate the International Day of the Tourist Guide, there will be **free guided tours of Salisbury Guildhall followed by tea with the Mayor of Salisbury.** Tours 2.20-4.20, teas from 3pm. To book tea please phone Salisbury 710587 or call at Abbey Stores, Salt Lane. Donations to Mayor's Appeal.