

News & Notes

Issue 276

April 1999

Easter Eggs

Terry Sankey

Easter eggs are an incredibly expensive way of buying chocolate. A colourful box and bright silvery covering camouflages the thin shell, the dark void and the small amount of sweets that rattle around in the gloom. Once the box has been ripped apart and the shell broken up, there is little of real substance left. You are actually buying a large void of emptiness.

A real egg on the other hand contains real life. The shell is there merely to contain the life within that will ultimately break out. The shell is then exposed as merely an important outer casing or protection.

At Easter we experience afresh the resurrection of Christ which is life giving and life transforming and has been the experience of the Church for nearly two thousand years.

The Church should be like a real egg; unable to contain the power of God that breaks out to help transform the world in which we live. Unfortunately the church building is sometimes perceived as a beautiful place in which not much happens that is relevant to our busy lives.

On Easter Sunday we will be reminded of those earth-shattering accounts of the risen Christ; that are the major reasons for the celebration of the Millennium. Enjoy it! I mean of course Easter! †

Church Services

Maundy Thursday 1 April	7.30 pm	Parish Communion	ASBA	GS	Charlton
Good Friday 2 April	12.00 noon			WC	Coombe
	12.00 noon			GS	Britford
	2.00 pm			GS	Nunton
Sunday 4 April	9.30 am	Parish Communion	ASBB	WC	Britford
Easter Day	9.30 am	Parish Communion	ASBA	GS	Charlton
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	ASBB	WC	Coombe
	11.00 am	Family Communion	ASBA	GS	Odstock
	6.00 pm	Parish Communion	BCP	WC	Homington
Sunday 11 April	8.00 am	Holy Communion	BCP	GS	Homington
Easter 2	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	ASBA	GS	Nunton
	11.00 am	Family Service		GS	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	AT	Charlton
Sunday 18 April	9.30 am	Matins	BCP	WC	Homington
Easter 3	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	ASBA	KC	Odstock
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	ASBA	GS	Charlton
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	BCP	WC	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	GS	Britford
	6.00 pm	Evensong	BCP	GS/JW	Odstock
Sunday 25 April	8.00 am	Holy Communion	BCP	GS	Homington
Easter 4	9.30 am	Parish Communion	ASBA	WC	Charlton
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	GS	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	WC	Nunton
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Service		GS	Homington

GS = Graham Southgate, WC = Westley Cole, SW = Sydney Willcox, KC = Karen Curnock, AT = Annabel Tier, RR = Roger Redding, TS = Terry Sankey, JW = John Watson, CW = Clare Watson.

From the Editor

This month's edition has been paid for by Sherwood Elcock on behalf of Odstock Primary School. The monthly production cost of *News & Notes* is now £32.50. If anyone would like to sponsor an issue, you will receive not only our grateful thanks, but also an advertisement for yourself, your business or a charity of your choice on the front page. 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 May issue is Friday 23 April - late copy cannot, I'm afraid, be accepted.

News from the Vicarage

Graham Southgate 01722 330628

Our Lent Project this year has been to support the campaign of the Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (SPCK) in providing Christian books to prisoners. Quite a lot of you have collected Lent boxes from me, and these should be returned to your Churchwardens as soon as possible. The Lent Lunch and Tombola, which took place in Odstock School Hall on 13th March, raised £77 for the Project - many thanks to Madeleine Baker for organising this.

This month is the season of the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (to elect Churchwardens) and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (when reports are presented and the new Parochial Church Council is elected). This year the meetings for the three parishes will take place as follows, beginning at 7.30 pm:

Parish	Venue	Date
Britford	The Memorial Hall	20 April
Charlton All Saints	The Parish Church	21 April
Odstock with Nunton and Bodenham	The Barker Room	26 April

The Church Mission Society (CMS), which is one of the major missionary societies, is celebrating its bicentenary this year. The local celebration will include a Service of Thanksgiving for 200 years of Mission in Salisbury Cathedral on Saturday 17th April at 2 pm, to which you are invited.

At the last meeting of Odstock with Nunton and Bodenham's Parochial Church Council it was decided to discontinue Odstock's service of Morning Prayer on the first Sunday in the month and experiment with a different style of service. The pattern will be similar to the Afternoon Service that has proved so successful in Homington: a "proper" service but different in its style

and welcoming to all ages. It is not intended that this will be a service only for those with children or for those who are able to attend with their families - rather it is meant for children and adults, whether or not they attend with other people. The first opportunity to attend the new Morning Service will be on Sunday 2nd May at 11 am in Odstock. I hope to see you there! †

Additional Holy Days in April

Monday 26 April - Saint Mark the Evangelist - 8 am Holy Communion at Nunton.

WI

Angela Moules

Mrs Sue Bourne presided at the AGM on 8 March and welcomed VCOs Mrs Jenny Coates and Mrs Sandra Mistlin. Outings have been planned to Windsor on 22 March and the House of Commons on 28 June. The April meeting is on the 12th when Maj Gen Dixon will talk about St George's Chapel, Windsor. 9 members showed interest in a visit to Denman College. Mrs Sheila May won the Denman bursary by a ballot of all members.

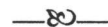
A Summer Celebration at Wilton on 14 June is planned - more details later. On 11 September, Devizes Evening WI will carry a Banner and Baton to Bishops Canning's WI via the Kennet and Avon Canal. Between then and October 2000 all 170 WIs in the county will have been visited, ending in the City Hall for the October Autumn Council Meeting.

Mrs Sue Bourne was re-elected as President. Mr Alan Weston, Crime Prevention Officer of the Wiltshire Bobbies Scheme gave a very helpful and interesting talk on his work, focussing mainly on the elderly and how their homes can be made secure.

Mrs Sue Bourne won the flower of the month competition with a Daphne Odora.

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OFSTED Inspector Praises Village School

Sherwood Elcock

The Governors of Odstock School have been delighted to receive the report of Government inspector Terry Mortimer in which he made some very positive comments about the standards of teaching and general performance of our local school. These were his main comments:

WHAT THE SCHOOL DOES WELL

- *Provides a good and balanced curriculum for all pupils.
- *Good provision is made for pupils with special educational needs and for pupils from the traveller community.
- *Promotes positive attitudes and behaviour of the pupils. Very good relationships exist between pupils from all parts of the community, and between pupils and adults in the school.
- *The good quality of teaching effectively promotes pupils' progress.
- *Assessment of pupils' attainment and monitoring of pupils' progress are good.
- *Provision for the spiritual, moral and social development of the pupils is good overall.

I am sure that readers will agree that this is a great vote of confidence in Odstock School.

The inspector also noted that the school had some weaknesses which need to be addressed. The problem areas relate mainly to aspects of organisation and the nature of the school building. The Governors have met twice since receiving the report and are confident that these matters can be resolved.

The Governors are particularly pleased because of the progress that has been made by the school since the last OFSTED report in July 1995 when a number of weaknesses were noted. This latest report clearly demonstrates that these problem areas have been resolved and the Governors would like to record their appreciation of the hard work and dedication of Paul Niblett and his staff past and present that have resulted in this improvement and the recent report.

One of the problem areas that the inspector noted was the absence of a "Vision" for the school. The Governors at one of their recent meetings agreed the following statement:

We will work to establish:

- *A 3 classroom school with up to 75 children.
- *A new double classroom on the site of the existing temporary classroom.

*A school with sufficient Educational Support Assistant Staff to provide a 12.5:1 child/adult ratio in the classroom.

*A school which attracts children from the local community and the southern edge of the city.

*A school with an attached playgroup which feeds children into the school.

*A school with a continuing tradition of Educational Special Needs expertise.

*A school with a supportive and involved governing body.

Parents who send their children to Odstock School can be confident that their children are receiving an excellent education in a local school that enjoys both a tradition and a future.

Conservative Association

Judy Barke

The Ebble Valley Branch Annual General Meeting will be held in the Barker Room, Nunton on Friday 23 April at 6.30 pm. Mr Robert Key, our Member of Parliament, hopes to be present.

Charlton Garden Society

Barbara Box

Mr Stone, head gardener from Longstock Water Garden travelled all the way from Andover on a cold dark evening to talk to us about the Garden, owned by the John Lewis Partnership. It was well worth it. His slides of the Garden throughout the year were beautiful. The next meeting is on Monday 19 April at 7.30 pm in Charlton Church Hall.

Nunton Churchyard Mowing - April to October

Harry Joynt

We are looking for people - male or female, old or young - to help with mowing the southern section of Nunton churchyard. As readers well know, for many years Bill and Grace Barker kept everything in apple pie order. In recent years my son and I have kept up a reasonably good standard and we shall continue to look after the northern section and all gravel paths, but the whole churchyard is getting beyond our other gardening commitments.

We hope to find a volunteer or two who could give their services free now and then. Apart from that, **we are prepared to pay a reasonable cash sum to a local person** for a couple of hours a fortnight, and we think this might suit a teenager or reasonably active pensioner.

If you would like to help and maybe earn a bob or two as well, please contact me - Harry Joynt, Churchwarden - on 01722 329782.

Open Afternoon at the Wonderful Water Gardens

on the
Leckford Estate, Stockbridge
on Sunday 18 April 2 - 5 pm
Nursery and refreshments available

Entrance fee
Adult £3, Child 50p

By kind permission of the John Lewis Partnership

All proceeds to Friends of Appleford School
A co-education school for dyslexic children aged 7-13.
Charity No 1010066

Odstock Pre-School

Natasha Stokes

Staff and Governors at Odstock School will be holding a meeting to discuss and develop a Pre-School to enable the children to reach the desirable learning outcomes. The Pre-School will be held within the school premises 4 mornings a week from September 1999. The meeting will take place at 7.30 pm on the 14th of April 1999 at the school. Your views as parents are very important to us, so please come along and show your support. Everybody welcome. If you would like anymore information please call Debbie Underhill on 01722 329769, or Natasha Stokes on 01722 332863.

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
Bingo	Every Friday, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm The Orchard, Nunton
Singing Group	Every Tuesday, 8.00 pm, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Mobile Library	Alternate Fridays (9 & 23 April): Village Hut, Charlton 9.45 am Alternate Tuesdays (6 & 20 April): 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

14 April	Odstock Pre-School meeting, Odstock School 7.30 pm
18 April	Open Afternoon, Leckford Estate Water Gardens 2.00 pm
19 April	Charlton Garden Society meeting, Charlton Church Hall 7.30 pm
20 April	Britford's Annual Parochial Meeting, Britford Memorial Hall 7.30 pm
21 April	Charlton All Saints' Annual Parochial Meeting, Church Hall 7.30 pm
23 April	Conservation Association AGM, Barker Room 6.30 pm
26 April	Odstock with Nunton & Bodenham's Annual Parochial Meeting, Barker Room 7.30 pm
24 April	Jumble Sale in aid of Flower Festival, Radnor Hall 2.00 pm
13 May	Deanery Eucharist for Ascension Day, Gurston Hill Farm, Broad Chalke 7.00 am
21 May	Jumble Sale, Radnor Hall 7.00 pm
22 May	Proposed trip to Hampton Court Palace
5&6 June	Flower Festival in Odstock

Odstock, Nunton & Bodenham Fete Events:

1 July	Clay pigeon shoot
2 July	Skittles at the Radnor Arms
3 July	Jumble sale at the Radnor Hall
9 July	Peter Pod and the Peas in the Marquee
10 July	Fete Afternoon
10 July	Raft Race
10 July	Family entertainment in the Marquee