
News & Notes

Issue 299

March 2001

In quietness and in trust shall be your strength (Isaiah 30.15)

Karen Curnock

Last month I was at Buckfast Abbey on a week's retreat. It was an ecumenical group and, apart from one other Anglican priest, they were lay people, Baptists, Anglicans and a Roman Catholic. What we all had in common was a desire to deepen our relationship with God through reflecting in silence and worshipping together. We were advised not to bring any books or a radio and, if we could, to restrain ourselves from going around the various gift shops around and about the Abbey. The aim was not to be distracted from our own interior journey and the only conversation we had each day was half an hour or so with the person allocated to us to help and guide us as we reflected on particular passages of scripture, made them our own and sought to know God in our lives in a deeper way.

We were, though, encouraged to get some exercise each day, if only to counter-balance all the food that was put before us! There was a booklet in each of our rooms setting out the instructions for some circular walks around the Abbey. It would have been more helpful had it been up-to-date, for some of us found ourselves making various detours as what was on the ground was not quite as described in the booklet. Others of us had brought along an OS map and so had an easier time of it. The walks in the countryside also helped simply to rest our minds as the body engaged in some physical exercise.

In that part of Devon there is no way of going out for a substantial walk without encountering hilly bits and it was extraordinary how those walks reflected, were a mirror image of, what was going on in the inner life of the spirit. The walks were at times exhausting as I plodded slowly up another long hill, exhilarating when I reached the top and another vista open out before me, uncertain as I wondered whether a particular path was going to get me where I wanted to be and messy as I went down a muddy, stony and water-filled path. And the walks wouldn't have been possible without signposts on the way, put there by people who knew the roads and the byways. The walks were full of ups and downs, and so was the inner journey that each of us was making. We are, all of us, on a different journey and it's surprising how on our walks we never bumped into each other on the way. Each person's spiritual journey is unique to them, but there are common threads: we all have fears and anxieties to bring to God, we all go through messy bits as we face some pain in our lives and we all enjoy some high points as God gives us new insights into our relationship with him.

What struck me, particularly going up yet another hill, was that I couldn't go at the pace I would want to choose, but had to accept my physical limitations and get to the top slowly if I was to get there at all. In our spiritual life too, we cannot force the pace with God. We all have limitations, weaknesses and particular anxieties that are part of who we are and we need to accept them and trust that God loves and accepts us just as much in them as in our strengths, our hopes and our joys. Highs or lows, ups or downs, hills or valleys, they are all alike to God, he is in them all and wanting us to know his love and presence with us, in our joy and sadness, in our hopes and our fears, and in our strengths and weaknesses.

From the Editor

This month's edition of our newsletter has been paid for by several smaller donations - all very valuable and well received! 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 April issue is Friday 23 March.

Church Services

Sunday 4 March	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	WC	Nunton
Lent 1	9.30 am	Parish Communion	GS	Britford
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	WC	Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong (BCP)	GS	Homington
Sunday 11 March	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	WC	Homington
Lent 2	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	WC	Odstock
	11.00 am	Matins (BCP)	GS	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins (BCP)	WC	Charlton
Sunday 18 March	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	WC	Britford
Lent 3	9.30 am	Morning Service	WC	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	GS	Nunton
	11.00 am	Parish Communion (BCP)	GS	Coombe
Sunday 25 March	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	WC	Homington
Lent 4	9.30 am	Family Communion with Mothering Sunday posies	GS	Charlton
Mothering Sunday	11.00 am	Family Service with Mothering Sunday posies	WC	Coombe
	11.00 am	Morning Service with Mothering Sunday posies	GS	Odstock
Sunday 1 April	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)		Nunton
Lent 5	9.30 am	Parish Communion		Britford
	11.00 am	Parish Communion		Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong (BCP)		Homington

Note: All Communion services are *Common Worship* liturgies, except those indicated BCP, which come from the *Book of Common Prayer*

News From The Vicarage

Graham Southgate

In the last issue of News and Notes, Teddy Penn wrote about the work of Age Concern Salisbury District, which is this year's Lent Project in the Chalke Valley. Hopefully you now all have your thinking caps on and are hard at work planning what your parish is going to do to assist in alleviating the security fears that so many old people suffer from. One event I have heard about is a Lent Lunch which will take place at the Vicarage in Nunton on Saturday 31 March, beginning at 12.30 pm.

This year the Lent Course is entitled FAITH IN THE FIRE, and will take the form of five sessions. It will include contributions from some well known sources (admittedly these are taped rather than "live") including Rabbi Lionel Blue (synagogue leader and broadcaster), the Reverend Steve Chalke (leader of the Oasis Trust), the Reverend Dr Leslie Griffiths (a past President of the Methodist Conference), the Most Reverend and the Right Honourable Dr David Hope (Archbishop of York), and the Right Honourable Ann Widdecombe MP (the Shadow Home Secretary). As in previous years, each session will be held in two venues: Brines Cottage, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett at 3 pm on 7, 14, 21, 28 March and 4 April (contact: Mrs Helen Baynes 01722 718395) or the Vicarage, Nunton at 7.30 pm on 13, 21, 28 March, 3 and 11 April (contact me on 01722 330628). Further details are elsewhere in this edition, and will also be found in each church porch.

Soon our three parishes will be beginning their usual round of church meetings. Each parish must have two: the **Annual Meeting of Parishioners** (for the election of churchwardens) and the **Annual Parochial Church Meeting** (for elections of a new Parochial Church Council and Sidesmen, and for the presentation of Accounts and Annual Reports). If you are on one of the Church Electoral Rolls then clearly you should be at your parish's meeting. If you do not know if you are on a Roll (or if you think that you may be eligible for enrolment) then please give me a ring and I'll put you in touch with your parish's Electoral Roll Officer. The details of the meetings are as follows:

Each parish's meeting begins at 7.30 pm.

Parish	Venue	Date
Britford	The Memorial Hall High Road, Britford	26 April
Charlton All Saints	The Parish Church Charlton All Saints	4 April
Odstock with Nunton and Bodenham	The Barker Room Nunton	2 April

From the Registers

Holy Matrimony

On 27 January at Britford:

Philip William Stanley Pearce and Dawn Roland

Burial

On 24 January at Charlton All Saints

Janet Mary Thorne

Holy Days in March

19 St Joseph of Nazareth 8 am Holy Communion at Nunton

26 Annunciation of our Lord to the Blessed Virgin Mary 8 am Holy Communion at Odstock

Wednesdays in Lent 11 am Holy Communion at Fifield Bavant

WI

Diane Wait

Mrs Jill Johnson (Vice President) was pleased to welcome 30 members and two guests to the 12 March meeting at the Radnor Hall. For the President's table Mrs Carolyn Mayall presented a delightful Spring flower arrangement in lovely soft shades. Mrs Jean Van Hagen then read out the minutes and various notices for future events, which included future skittles matches at Downton Leisure Centre and an interesting day trip to Oxford on 22 May which will include an two hour guided tour. The cost for the day will be £15.50. She was also delighted to report on the continuing success of our scrabble team. Congratulations to all those who take part and for such a high standard of play.

We were all sad to say goodbye to one of our long standing and popular members, Mrs Patti English, who is moving to a lovely new home in Highcliffe, where she will enjoy a spectacular view overlooking the sea. We all wish her much happiness for the future and hope she will be able to attend one or two of the social events during the summer.

Miss Betty Marks was delighted to win Flower of the Month competition with a very beautiful pale pink Camellia Donation. Incidentally, I am pleased to report that we recently sent a cheque for £30.32 from the proceeds of this competition to the Charity ACWW.

The thought-provoking and very well acted play Secret Rapture was enjoyed by members on Monday 5 February and we look forward to another visit to the Playhouse on Monday 5 March to see Alan Ayckbourn's play, The Things We Do for Love. Many thanks again to Joy Saunders and Judith Johnson for arranging these enjoyable outings.

Following coffee we were treated to a truly marvellous talk by Mr Simon Lole, who is Director of Music & Master of the Choristers at Salisbury Cathedral. He told us he started to sing at the tender age of 6 in the Choir of St Mary Redcliff, Bristol, and in 1967 he joined the Choir School at St Paul's Cathedral where he used to take part in 14 services a week. His career in church music has taken him to many different locations, including a Parish Church in Barking where he often used to play the organ

for 8 weddings on any given Saturday. In his first year he played at 247 weddings! He enjoyed teaching church music at Croydon Parish Church and also had a wonderful 10 years at Warwick where he started the first girls' choir. He then spent 3 memorable years at Sheffield Cathedral before the start of his time at Salisbury Cathedral. His reminiscences were very entertaining and all the more appreciated as he did not need to refer to any notes. I am sure he will write a wonderful book on his life and career sometime in the future. It would certainly be a fascinating read. On behalf of members, Mrs Julia Joynt thanked him for a truly inspiring, amusing and informative talk.

The next meeting on Monday 12 March is the Annual General Meeting, and the speaker will be Mrs Sandra Mistlin. At the end of the meeting, Mrs Jill Johnson has promised to give us a brief synopsis of her recent travels to fascinating and wonderful places. I am sure we will all enjoy a bit of escapism. It is hoped that later on her husband Julian will be able to give us a talk on their travels and show some slides illustrating their visit to the wonderful places most of us only ever dream about!

Easter Lilies for Nunton

If anyone would like to give a donation towards the cost of Easter Lilies in Nunton Church, in memory of a loved one or a friend, would they kindly get in touch with Diane Fray, Macaria Cottage, Nunton, tel 01722 329754, before 16 March.

Thanks to Britford

Michael Pearce

May I thank everyone for welcoming Philip and Dawn to St Peter's for their wedding on 27 January. Our thanks especially to Graham, Daphne, Rod, Richard, and the bellringers, and to all who came from Britford and neighbouring parishes to lend their support

Lent 2001

FAITH IN THE FIRE

Faith facing facts
Faith facing doubt
Faith facing disaster
Faith fuelling prayer
Faith fuelling action

A course in five weekly sessions:

On 7, 14, 21, 28 March & 4 April at Brines Cottage,
Coombe Bissett beginning at 3 pm

On 13, 21, 28 March, 3 & 11 April at The Vicarage,
Nunton beginning at 7.30 pm

The Chalke Valley Link Scheme

The Scheme is one of thirty-five schemes in the county and is now in its fifth year of operation. Nearly seventy volunteers provide transport or care services to residents (in communities from Berwick St John to Bodenham and Britford) who may not have a ready or reasonable alternative to meet their needs. To date the scheme has received and dealt with more than two thousand requests

and has proved to be an invaluable contribution to individual welfare and mobility throughout the Valley. The elderly and sick have particularly benefitted.

The Scheme works under the aegis of Community First for Wiltshire and Swindon, and is a registered charity for administrative purposes, meeting its costs by voluntary donations from users, local support, self-funding and from the generosity of volunteers. It is managed by a committee of trustees, officers and representatives of most of the thirteen parishes that are served.

As a registered charity, the Scheme is obliged to notify its members and users, as well as any members of the public who have registered their interest in the activities of the Scheme, and to do so at an Annual General Meeting. Notice is hereby served, therefore, that the Annual General Meeting in 2001 will be held in Bowerchalke Village Hall on Wednesday 6 June at 7.30 pm. Current members of the Scheme, including users, are very welcome to attend, as are members of the public who register their interest by notifying the Secretary, Bruce Allcorn, "Rockhash", Flamstone Street, Bishopstone SP5 5BZ tel 01722 780351.

The River Ebble

Nathan Vyas, aged 10

The river's quite fast flowing now,
Because of all the floods.
On its course to the Avon,
Through swamps of wet mud.

With two bridges crossing,
One concrete, one wood.
The concrete one was under water mind you,
We always knew the floods would.

The raft race would be held here,
Only once a year.
Starting from the bridges,
And ending with a pint of beer.

The Radnor Arms was the name of the pub,
With the Ebble by its side.
No one went that close to the river,
And it wasn't very wide

Closure of Ebble Community Pre-School

Debby Underhill

In mid January the future of the Pre-School looked bleak. The low number of children and lack of outside funding was not making the Pre-School viable and the staff salaries had to be paid. The staff and committee set out on a publicity and fund raising drive and the staff became very despondent with the lack of response.

But we had a marvellous evening on 9 February at the Quiz Night and Auction of Promises and cleared a profit of £600, which meant the committee was able to pay the February staff salaries. Thank you to all who donated promises and especially those who so generously bid for them.

Unfortunately at the staff and committee meeting after the Auction, the Staff announced that they had all found more secure employment starting after half term, which has left the committee and parents devastated. The committee had no option other than to close the Pre-School on the 15 February, as Social Services will not allow you to open without two members of qualified staff.

Thank you to everyone in the community who has helped us try to keep the Pre-School going.

Charlton Garden Society

Our next meeting is on Monday 26 March at 7.30 pm in Charlton Church Hall, when Mr Nick Lock will talk to us on "The Use and Abuse of Gardens".

Personalised Stationery

**Writing Paper Correspondence Cards
Invitations Business Cards**

Anne Stutchbury
Wheelwright Cottage Bishopstone Salisbury SP5 4BZ
Tel/Fax: 01722 780339
email: anne@astutchbury.freemove.co.uk

Regular Events

WI	Second Monday of the month, 10.00 am Radnor Hall, Bodenham
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
Whist Drive	Every Thursday, 7.30 pm Barker Room, Nunton
Singing Group	Every Monday, 8.00 pm, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Parent & Toddler	Every Friday 9.30 - 11.30 am, Ebble Pre-school mobile, Odstock School
Mobile Library	Alternate Fridays (9 & 23 March): 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
For Your Diary	
26 March	Garden Society, Charlton Church Hall 7.30 pm
2 April	Odstock & Nunton Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Barker Room, Nunton 7.30 pm
4 April	Charlton Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Church Hall, Charlton 7.30 pm
26 April	Britford Annual Parochial Church Meeting, Memorial Hall, Britford 7.30 pm