

News and Notes

Issue 341

September 2004

...because I thought you would believe

One hot afternoon at the end of April I found myself in one of Cairo's southern districts, not far from the ancient Ramadan Mosque. Opposite the Metro station, an ornate archway inscribed in Arabic marked the entrance to the Hanging Church. Through it, a short passageway brought me to a steep flight of white steps leading to the doorway.

It was dark inside. Behind the façade much of the original late third and early forth century church remains in place. Dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St. Dimiana, the Hanging Church was built on the wall of the original Roman fortress and a glass plate in the floor offers a view of a remaining section of the stonework.

I sat down and looked around at the ancient building. After a few minutes a young Egyptian woman approached me. Her dark hair was tied back in a ponytail and she wore a blue pinafore dress and white blouse. Looking at me with a smile, she spoke insistently in clear English "Before you say anything, I do not want any money or gifts at all, but I would be happy to tell you a little about this church if you would like it."

She then gave me a brief tour of the church. The roof had been designed in the shape of Noah's Ark as a reminder of God's salvation, and the principal icons expressed God's love and judgement. She talked about the pulpit and the intricately carved symbols on the walls. After 15 minutes or so, she invited me to sit again, and checked whether I had any further questions. "I hope you like this church" she said "I spoke to you because I thought you would believe."

Although discriminated against in Egypt, the Coptic Church is very much alive. I have never met such an effective evangelist as the young woman in the Hanging Church; she knew her stuff, and used the symbols and artefacts of the building to express the Christian faith. Through disciples like her, the Gospel will continue to be taught and lived despite local hostility.

Our faith is an ancient faith, but in England as in Egypt, we have a responsibility to pass it on to a new generation, even though our own cultural environment is not so much hostile to the Gospel as completely apathetic. This is why the bishops are calling our diocese to "mature Christian discipleship."

The Benefice Weekend in November will be an opportunity to stir up our faith, and help each other to become more effective as disciples. It will be a time for encouragement, but not necessarily for comfort. I hope that it will get you stuck into the Bible and ready to try out some new ideas too. How *are* we going to live as Christians in a world of self-interest? Can we make a difference?

And I am looking forward to meeting you!

Tim Woods

For details of the Benefice Weekend which Tim Woods mentions above, please see page 3. Fuller details and the necessary application form are included in this month's edition of Chalke Talk which will be available in our churches. You are encouraged to take part in what will be both a challenging and an enjoyable event

Please see back page for details of Church of England Services and dates for your diary

Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham Fête

Brian Blake

I am pleased to be able to tell you that this year's Fête resulted in a profit of just under £4,600. This was an impressive result given the poor weather on the Saturday. Thanks again to everyone who helped with the programme of events, or even just came along to have fun at one or all of them.

The AGM will be held in October (see next month's News and Notes for more detail). A definite date for your diaries already, however, is the date for next year. The Fête will be held one week later than normal, on Saturday 16th July. This is to avoid clashing with the Hudson's Field show, which we gather is to be held earlier next year.

Odstock Parish Council

Wiltshire Wildlife Trust is planning to bring a heavy duty shredder to the Parish during the first half of October. Villagers will be able to dispose safely of garden waste. Full details will be published on the Village Noticeboards and in the October edition of News and Notes.

The next Parish Council meeting is at 7:30pm on Wednesday, 15th September in the Radnor Hall.

Normandy Holiday

Lyndsey Whalley

Earlier this summer Chris and I and four friends popped over to Normandy to visit Ex-Pats Kerry and Stevie Miller. The Millers decamped from Salisbury in September 2002. and have since created a beautiful home in rural France 1.5 hours south west of Cherbourg and the D Day beaches. They are 10 minutes drive from the historic market town of Coutances and the sands of Mont Martin.

The ramshackle house and garden of two years ago is hardly recognisable now. The house has been made warm and watertight, and modernised and decorated without losing too much of its natural rustic charm. However the surrounding four acres of wilderness was proving less easy to tame. This was where Ground Force came into play, and after three days of strimming, tree-felling, mowing, pruning and weeding, we uncovered an apple orchard, numerous fruit bushes, a vegetable garden, a lawn and well established flower beds. We felt well justified in helping them out with their beer and wine supplies after such a discovery!

I can now report that Les Loges des Haut is ready for business. The Millers offer bed and breakfast in extremely comfortable accommodation for up to 5 people. An evening meal is available on request and usually includes home grown vegetables! Need I mention the wine cellar?!

For further details please telephone: 00332 33457515 or email: ksbmiller@hotmail.com

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Charlton All Saints Garden Society

Barbara Box

We meet on Monday, 27th September at 7.30pm when Barbara Last will speak on "Season of mist and mellow fruitfulness" and then on Monday, 25th October when David Maders will talk about Chrysanthemums.

Charlton All Saints Harvest Celebrations

The Harvest Service at Charlton All Saints is on Sunday, 26th September at 9.30am. Anyone interested in helping to decorate the church on the Saturday at 10.00am will be most welcome. All the Harvest produce will be going to the Women's Refuge.

Our Harvest Supper will be on Saturday, 2nd October in the Church Hall, 7.00 for 7.30pm. Please contact Pam Cox on 01722 329709 by 30th September for tickets at £7 for adults and £3.50 for children over 5.

Radnor Hall Players

Brian Blake

I am keen to produce a show in November. Interested? I would like to hear from anyone with ideas for scripts, who would like to act, or would like to be involved back stage or front of house. This invitation is not restricted to existing Players – new faces and ideas are always welcome.

If you have ideas or ambitions, please come along to the Radnor Hall at 7.30pm on Monday, 13th September. Alternatively, if you have difficulty in making the meeting, please call me on 01722 340261.

Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham

HARVEST SUPPER

followed by

Country Dancing to the Blarney Band
at the Radnor Hall, Bodenham
Saturday, 25th September at 7.30pm
Tickets £7 (12 and under half price)
Tickets from Bodenham Post Office,
Harry Joynt (329782) or Debby Underhill (329769)
Book early - numbers limited to 60

HARVEST FESTIVAL

Sunday, 26th September at 11.00am
St Mary's Church, Odstock
All very welcome

The Charlton All Saints 2004 Bonfire Bash



Saturday 6th November
from 6.00pm
next to the Village Barn
Traditional Bonfire Refreshments

For tickets contact:
Graham & Jackie Barrett
Hollytree House, Church Lane
01722 324097

£5.00 Adults, £2.50 Children (5-14 years)

“WINGS OVER CHARLTON”

A talk about the birds in
Charlton All Saints
by
STEVE OAKES our RSPB expert
7.30 pm Friday, 22 October
in the Church - Refreshments
Tickets £4.00
from Barbara Box - 01725 510758

Benefice Non Residential Weekend 6th and 7th November

David Henley

The weekend has been designed to bring together Christians of the Chalke Valley so that we may share teaching, worship and fellowship. The last Weekend was a great success and church members up and down the valley have asked if the event could be repeated. All the parishes are involved in the running of the weekend and there has been input from Revd. Jackie Lowe, URC Minister in Broad Chalke.

Saturday: The main teaching day is Saturday and there is a choice of seminars to attend in two sessions, one in the morning and the other in the late afternoon. On Saturday afternoon there will be a chance to join with others in a choice of enjoyable relaxing activities. The keynote address will be given by Revd. Tim Woods.

Full details of the seminars can be found in Chalke Talk which will be available in our churches **and which will include an application form**. The topics will be *The Challenge of Islam, The Challenge of Family Life, The Challenge of Work and The Challenge of the Created World*.

Food will be provided during the day and there will be an craft workshop for children during the morning. There will be a short time of worship at the end of the day.

Sunday: The main service for the day will take place in Coombe Bissett Church at 10.30am and is followed by lunch in the Village Hall at 12noon.

Sunday evening at the URC in Broad Chalke will take the form of an “Any Questions?” session following brief talks by a panel on the “Challenge of Being the Church – Unity and Diversity.” This will be followed by a cup of tea and a short ecumenical service, finishing by 6pm.

Church of England Services

Sunday, 5th September Trinity 13	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion Parish Communion Evening Prayer BCP	Nunton Britford Coombe Bissett Homington	AW AW AW AW/WC
Sunday, 12th September Trinity 14	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion Family Service - Baptism Morning Prayer BCP	Homington Odstock Coombe Bissett Charlton All Saints	AW AW/PM AW DH
Sunday, 19th September Trinity 15	8.00am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion Morning Service Parish Communion BCP	Britford Nunton Homington Coombe Bissett	AW AW WC AW
Sunday, 26th September Trinity 16	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion - Harvest Festival Morning Prayer BCP Morning Service - Harvest Festival	Homington Charlton All Saints Coombe Bissett Odstock	AW AW AT AW

WC = Revd Westley Cole, AW = Revd Alison Williams, PM = Philip Morris, AT = Annabel Tier

BCP = Book of Common Prayer

Alison Williams, our Team Vicar, may be contacted on 01722 330628

Regular Events

WI	Second Monday of the month, 10.00am Radnor Hall, Bodenham
Whist Drive	Every Thursday, 7.30pm Barker Room, Nunton
Singing Group	Every Tuesday, 8.00pm, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Tiny Tots	Wednesdays (ex. Aug.) 9.45–11.45am, Radnor Hall, Bodenham, contact Suzie Orchiton on 01722 502026
Mobile Library	Alternate Wednesdays (8 th , 22 nd): Brookmead, Britford 10.00 – 10.20am Phone Box, Charlton 10.30 – 10.45am, Radnor Arms, Nunton 11.00 – 11.20am

September Dates for Your Diary

13 th September	WI Promotional Meeting at the Radnor Hall, starting at 10am followed by a Ploughman's Lunch (£4)
15 th September	Odstock Parish Council Meeting, Radnor Hall, 7.30pm
20 th Sept.	News and Notes deadline (see below)
25 th September	Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham Harvest Supper, 7.30pm at the Radnor Hall (see page 3)
27 th September	Charlton All Saints Garden Society (see page 2)

Advance Dates

2 nd October	Harvest Supper (Charlton), 7.00 for 7.30pm (see page 2)
22 nd October	“Wings over Charlton” - a talk by Steve Oakes, Charlton Church, 7.30pm (see page 3)
25 th October	Charlton All Saints Garden Society (see page 2)
31 st October	Grand Pumpkin Competition Weigh-in, Seeds at £2.50 available from Radnor Arms
6 th Nov	Charlton All Saints Bonfire Party (see page 3)
6 th /7 th Nov.	Benefice Weekend
15 th December	Downton Band Concert (Charlton)

Please send News and Notes articles to Adrian Taylor
Florida, Nunton Drove, Nunton SP5 4HZ
tel: 01722 325862
email: vcmtaylor@msn.com (see deadline above)

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