

News & Notes

Issue 287

March 2000

An Enjoyable Lent

Graham Southgate

I once came across a prayer for the beginning of Lent which contained the phrase, "Each year you give us this joyful season. . ." Ever since then I have found myself wondering whether or not I am approaching Lent with the right frame of mind. Surely Lent is supposed to be a time of sadness when we "do" penance and try to put our lives in order? Is it possible for the two to go together? Well maybe it is; maybe the problem is that we equate being penitent with being miserable and treat Lent as something to be survived rather than lived.

Today we are always being reminded that we must be positive, search for the "feel good" factor, live holistically. People (except for me) are rediscovering the value of strict regimes of exercise so that they can enjoy the long-term benefits of good physical and mental health. The same could be said of our spiritual health. In his first letter to the Corinthians, Saint Paul compares our spiritual efforts to athletes in strict training. He reminds us that they strive to win wreaths "that will wither away", whereas our prize "will never wither".

I have heard the Church described as like a good psychologist because the liturgical year is so well balanced, with the different seasons reflecting our different moods and life experiences. Lent is there to

prepare us for the great events of Easter, the festival that certainly does give joy and meaning to the whole Christian mystery. However, the triumph of Easter was not achieved without the pain and suffering Jesus experienced. The forty days of Lent remind us of the time Jesus spent in the wilderness, confronting the forces of evil before he began his public ministry. The Gospels provide the accounts of this saving work of Jesus; describe how people's lives were transformed by meeting him. They were written for a purpose: Saint John explained that it was so that we might believe that Jesus is the Messiah or Christ, the Son of God, and that believing we might have life through his name.

Life is often compared to a journey or pilgrimage. The secret of a good Christian spirituality is learning to understand that the story of our pilgrimage is part of God's story. I can think of no better way of approaching this Lent than inviting you to reflect on how our stories make sense when seen in the light of the Gospel. So why not make a very simple resolution for this Lent: read Jesus' story. Saint Mark's Gospel is both the earliest and the shortest account - about 660 verses. Just fifteen to twenty verses each day will hardly be too great a burden, but hopefully these will set us not only thinking, but praying; then Lent will not be a long, miserable drudge, but a joyful and fulfilling season.

Lent begins on Wednesday 8 March.

Church Services

Sunday 5 March	8.00 am	Holy Communion	WC	Nunton
1 before Lent	9.30 am	Parish Communion	GS	Britford
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	GS	Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong	WC	Homington
Sunday 12 March	8.00 am	Holy Communion	GS	Homington
Lent 1	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	WC	Odstock
	11.00 am	Family Service	WC	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins	GS	Charlton
Sunday 19 March	9.30 am	Morning Service	WC	Homington
Lent 2	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	GS	Nunton
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	WC	Coombe
	3.00 pm	Afternoon Service	GS	Britford
Sunday 26 March	8.00 am	Holy Communion	GS	Homington
Lent 3	9.30 am	Parish Communion	WC	Charlton
	11.00 am	Matins	GS	Coombe
	11.00 am	Morning Service	WC	Odstock
Sunday 2 April	8.00 am	Holy Communion		Nunton
Lent 4	9.30 am	Parish Communion		Britford
	11.00 am	Mothering Sunday Family Service		Coombe
	3.00 pm	Mothering Sunday Family Service		Nunton
	6.00 pm	Evensong		Homington

From the Editor

This month's edition has been paid for by our advertisers and by smaller donations - all of which are very valuable and very gratefully received. The monthly production cost of *News & Notes* is now £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 17 March.

Lent 2000

Graham Southgate 01722 330628

Ash Wednesday - the first day of Lent - is 8 March and there will be two services that day to mark the start of Lent: Holy Communion in Nunton at 12 noon and a Parish Communion (which will include the traditional Imposition of Ashes) in Coombe Bissett at 7.30 pm.

The **Lent Course** will be a series of five weekly Bible studies based on Better Together, a study pack produced by the Archbishops' Springboard Team to encourage us in the process of making new disciples. The studies will take place at two venues (which you can "mix and match" if you wish):

Wednesdays at 3 pm, at Brines Cottage, Homington Road, Coombe Bissett (beginning on 15 March),

Thursdays at 7.30 pm, at The Vicarage, Nunton (beginning on 16 March)

The **Lent Project** is HOPE AND HOMES FOR CHILDREN. This charity is based near Salisbury and was started by Colonel Mark Cook after his return from service in Bosnia. The most innocent victims in any war are children and very often their suffering is greater than that of any others because they often lose both homes and parents. Mark was so distressed by the plight of the children he encountered in Bosnia that he left the Army and set up this charity to provide homes and care for such children. To enable us to learn more about this work our Team Rector Canon Syd Willcox has arranged a meeting in Bowerchalke Village Hall on Thursday 9th March, when we shall be brought up to date with the work of this organisation. In the meantime please give some thought to how YOU can support this work - it would be good if something could be arranged in each of the three parishes.

Holy Days in March

- 8 **Ash Wednesday** 12 noon Holy Communion at Nunton.
7.30 pm Parish Communion + Imposition of Ashes at Coombe Bissett
- 20 **Saint Joseph of Nazareth** 8.00 am Holy Communion at Nunton.
- 25 **Annunciation to the Blessed Virgin Mary**
10.00 am Holy Communion at Odstock.

Our Churches' Annual Meetings

These comprise the Annual Meeting of Parishioners (for the election of churchwardens) and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting (similar to an AGM). Notice is given that they will take place as follows, beginning at 7.30 pm:

Parish	Venue	Date
Britford	The Memorial Hall	11 April
Charlton All Saints	The Parish Church	22 March
Odstock with Nunton and Bodenham	The Barker Room	10 April

Please check with the following Church Electoral Roll Officers to ensure that you are registered to vote at the above annual meetings:

Parish Officer

Britford - Rod Shipsey, The Old Forge, Lower Road, Britford.

Charlton All Saints - Peter Cox, 8 Church Lane, Charlton All Saints.

Odstock with Nunton and Bodenham - Peter Jenkins, Bodenham Cottage, Bodenham.

Britford Cleaning Day

The PCC is holding another Cleaning Day at St Peter's Church, Britford on 29 April from 10 am onwards. Anyone wanting to help please come along - if possible with your own tools.

Britford Plant Sale

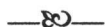
On Saturday 6 May there will be a Plant Sale in Britford Village Hall from 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm. There will be other stalls - bric-a-brac, books etc, and coffee and tea will be available. Contributions to the sale would be most welcome. For further information, please phone 01722 334858.

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 relative or friend, would they kindly contact Diane Fray, Macaria Cottage, Nunton, telephone 01722 329753, before 23 March.

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Britford Millennium Celebrations

Judy Sturdy, Clerk Britford Parish Council

We propose having a photograph taken of Britford residents in the year 2000. This would be a series of groups and will be taken in June. Further information, together with details of suggestions made for the Millennium Weekend, will be in later editions of *News & Notes*.

Sleep In

David Barke, The Old Rectory, Nunton, 01722 324910

On the night of Friday 10 March, there is to be a sponsored "Sleep In" at the Methodist Church in Salisbury in order to raise funds for the Alabaré Christian Care Centre.

This charity runs three hostels in Salisbury for the homeless and, rather than being simply a night shelter, it takes people in for weeks, or indeed months, at a time and helps them to get back to a more normal way of living. Single people and families are catered for.

The charity also runs workshops and a smallholding to help people develop skills with future employment in mind.

The sleep over in the Church hardly compares in discomfort with sleeping in the car park or a shop door, but it does serve to give a hint of the difficulties some people face.

I shall be taking part in this "Sleep In" and, if anybody felt able to contribute by sponsoring me, I would be only too glad to accept any offers.

WI

Judy Barke

The President, Mrs Sue Bourne, welcomed members to the Barker Room, Nunton for the February meeting. Get well wishes were sent to Mrs Jean Van Hagen who is recovering from a hip operation.

Members would be going to Confusions at the Playhouse in March.

Old scrapbooks of WI activities had been brought for members to browse through, and Miss Anne Winser and Mrs Daphne White agreed to update them with all the recent cuttings that members had collected.

This year's Fete will be on 8 July and once again the WI has been asked to organise 3 stalls - Produce, Plants and Cakes.

The WI Millennium Project will be the donation of a bench in the area of the new children's playground on Nunton football field when this is completed.

Members were able to purchase Mrs Joan Dixon's book. Proceeds from the books sold directly by her will go to the refurbishment of the Barker Room loos.

The flower of the month competition was won by Judy Barke with a *Helleborus Niger* (Christmas Rose).

The speaker was Mr Andy Bell, who gave us a very entertaining talk on A Day in the Life of a City Ambassador (Car Park Inspector). He told some very amusing stories of his work and listed some of the many varied questions that people ask him. He also told us of the very many excuses people use to try to evade getting a parking ticket!

The next meeting will be on 13 March in the Barker Room, Nunton. This is the AGM and VCO Mrs Liz Barr will run the meeting.

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London Marathon

Bernard Stubbs

Many of you will know that I have run seven previous London Marathons and had made a decision that I would do no more sponsored marathons. I was very disappointed when I ran into trouble in the 1999 race and needed help from the St John Ambulance team to enable me to finish, albeit in my slowest time. I have, therefore, decided to run one more competitive race, not only to prove to myself that I

can achieve a faster time, but also to raise money for the St John Ambulance charity, without whose valuable support I would not have been able to complete the race. I hope to be able to divide the money between the local branch and the London headquarters that organised blood glucose testing stations for diabetics last year for the first time. Please telephone me on 01722 330006 if you would like to sponsor me.

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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
Bingo	Every Friday, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm The Orchard, 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 (10 & 24 March): Village Hut, Charlton 9.45 am Alternate Tuesdays (14 & 28 March): 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

9 March	Hope & Homes for Children evening, Bowerchalke Village Hall
10 March	Sleep In, Salisbury Methodist Church
13 March	WI meeting & AGM
22 March	Charlton PCC Annual Meeting, Charlton Church 7.30 pm
10 April	Odstock with Nunton & Bodenham PCC Annual Meeting, Barker Room 7.30 pm
11 April	Britford PCC Annual Meeting, Britford Village Hall 7.30 pm
29 April	Britford Church Cleaning Day from 10.00 am
6 May	Britford Plant Sale, Britford Village Hall 1.30 pm - 4.30 pm
8 July	Nunton, Odstock & Bodenham Fete