
News & Notes

Issue 298

February 2001

Christian Staff Wrestled from the Mud

Annabel Tier

The heading caught my eye - An early Bishop's crozier, possibly the oldest in Ireland, has been found a bog 60 miles from Dublin. The crozier, a simple staff some four feet high with a Greek cross inscribed on one end, was recovered from a wooden trackway or "togher" across a peat bog less than 10 miles from a great monastic centre on the banks of the River Shannon. A symbol of Authority, a sign of Faith, it would probably have been held along its shaft.

There are times in this life, aren't there, when what we need more than anything else is something to hold on to. Life is not easy. One of the great truths of this life is that walking the way of this life is difficult. When it is difficult, when you feel that you are getting bogged down, remember that Christian staff. Someone, probably in the fifth century AD, deliberately placed it there, upright, thrust down alongside an ancient oak trackway, to mark the only way there was across the bog to the dry land on the other side.

Church Services

Sunday 4 February 4 before Lent	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	GS	Nunton
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	WC	Britford
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	GS	Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong (BCP)	WC	Homington
Sunday 11 February 3 before Lent	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	GS	Odstock
	11.00 am	Family Service	SE/TM	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins (BCP)	GS	Charlton
Sunday 18 February 2 before Lent	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	GS	Britford
	9.30 am	Morning Service	GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	SW	Nunton
	11.00 am	Parish Communion (BCP)	GS	Coombe
Sunday 25 February 1 before Lent	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	GS	Nunton
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	WC	Britford
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	GS	Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong (BCP)	WC	Homington
Wednesday 28 February Ash Wednesday	12.00 noon	Holy Communion	GS	Nunton
	7.30 pm	Parish Communion and Imposition of Ashes	WC	Coombe
Sunday 4 March Lent 1	8.00 am	Holy Communion (BCP)	WC	Nunton
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	GS	Britford
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	WC	Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong (BCP)	GS	Homington

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

From the Editor

This edition has been paid for by two generous readers - our thanks go to them. 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 March issue is Friday 16 February.

WI

Diane Wait

It was lovely to see so many members at our first meeting of 2001 held on Monday 8 January at the Radnor Hall and Mrs Sue Bourne (President) was also delighted to welcome three guests. For the President's table, Mrs Julia Joynt had created a very stylish and attractive winter arrangement from variegated leaves and white azalea blooms.

After Mrs Jean Van Hagen had read out the minutes and notices of interesting future events, she read out a further note which was aimed at reminding members, and explaining to new members, the duties of the monthly hostesses. She also clarified the rules of the flower of the month competition, which incidentally was won by Mrs Bourne with a very attractive pale cream Polyanthus. We were reminded that the proceeds from this competition are sent annually to a charity (ACWW) which helps Third World countries. Members also agreed that a donation of £25.00 should be sent to the Owl Sanctuary in the New Forest where we do sponsor an owl, whose name escapes me at present!

We have had a very sociable time recently starting with a wonderful Christmas Lunch in December at Salisbury College prepared by the students. This was a really enjoyable occasion and the food was absolutely delicious. I shall look forward to a repeat performance next year! Members also had fun at a Skittles contest on 9 January at Downton Leisure Centre where our three teams played very well. On Wednesday 10 January a group of us went to see the excellent pantomime, Robin Hood & the Babes in the Wood at Salisbury Playhouse, and what fun we had. It was lovely to be like children again and the evening was full of good humour and laughter. I think we all felt it was a real tonic and our thanks go to Joy Saunders and Judith Johnson for arranging this lovely outing.

With regard to future events, we were delighted to learn that Julia and Harry Joynt have said that we can hold our annual garden party on 11 June in the beautiful gardens of their home Nunton House. This will provide a fabulous setting for the party, and hopefully the sun will decide to favour us as well.

Our excellent speaker at the meeting was Mr David Stone, who is head gardener at Mottisfont Abbey and who has worked there for 23 years. His talk was on the famous Mottisfont roses. He explained that his own interest in roses began as a boy when he "rescued" a rather sad Peace rose and somehow brought it back to life. He specialises in the more old fashioned roses and he showed us a wonderful selection of slides depicting both modern and traditional blooms. He took us through the history of the rose, dating back thousands of years and brought us right up to date with some spectacular modern roses. He also gave us some excellent advice on how to be successful rose growers, mulching being his most important tip. We all enjoyed his talk very much and look forward to a visit to Mottisfont - June is the best month for roses. Mrs Gill Dodd thanked him very much for making his subject so interesting and for showing such a wonderful variety of roses.

The next meeting will be held on Monday 12 February when the speaker will be Mr Simon Lole, who is Director of Music and Master of the Choristers at Salisbury Cathedral. His talk is entitled "Once a chorister, always a chorister" and should prove to be a fascinating subject. Guests will be very welcome to come to the meeting and listen to his talk.

Charlton Parish Council News

Michael Chandler

Flooding

Do you have any ideas as to what could have been done to help avoid the flooding? Or to try and avoid a repetition of it? If we believe the weather forecasters, the flooding could well be an annual event, and we need to spend as much time as we can to try and improve the situation.

A338

With regard to the A338, the Senior Traffic Engineer has said "There is a possibility of minor remedial measures being carried out, by means of altering the road markings at the junction and providing signs indicating the junctions. However the accident record for the A338 at this location does not justify diverting funds for improvements away from sites where the situations are much worse."

He goes on to say "I can confirm that the opportunity will be taken to alter the road markings when the A338 white lines are renewed under routine maintenance in the future. When the budgets for the forthcoming financial year are known, then we will be in a position to decide what other type of treatment will be the most appropriate for this stretch of road".

Neighbourhood Watch

With regard to the Neighbourhood Watch if anyone has any problems would they please contact Pat or I on 01725 511152 or Michael@chandlerhomesearch.co.uk

Auction of Promises

The Ebbles Community Pre-School is having an Auction of Promises and Quiz Night on Friday 9 February 2001 at the Radnor Hall, starting at 7.30 pm. Tickets are £5 each, which will include a ploughman's supper and a glass of wine/punch or fruit juice.

Promises currently include a haircut at either HairLoft or Hans hairdressers, an Austrian meal for four, one night's babysitting, a week's ironing, theatre tickets, computer lessons, and many more. Come along for a fun evening and find out!

Tickets are available at Bodenham Post Office, Ebbles Pre-School, Debby Underhill on 01722 329769 or from Sharon Chandler on 01722 329719.

Charlton Garden Society

Barbara Box

The next meeting is on Monday 5 February at the usual time of 7.30 pm in the Church Hall. Mr Vincent Mears will talk about seed propagation.

Future meetings include:

Monday 26 March: Mr Nick Lock who has entitled his talk "The Use and Abuse of Gardens"! I hope I've done the right thing in inviting him!

Monday 21 May: Mr Barry Parrett will talk on The Flowers of Martin Down.

Chalke Valley Benefice Lent Project

Teddy Penn

The Benefice has selected Age Concern Salisbury District to be the beneficiary of its customary Lent project. Age Concern Salisbury District welcomes this and wishes to express its gratitude.

The aim of ACSD can best be expressed as **"To help older people to stay in their own homes with good quality of life for as long as possible"**. To this end we provide:

- ❖ A *Care Service* covering both Salisbury and surrounding villages, which is tailor made to individual needs, currently assisting 150 clients.
- ❖ A *Housework Service*, which is a low charge scheme based on the introduction of self-employed workers, currently with 400 clients.
- ❖ A *Gardening and Home Maintenance Scheme*, currently also with 400 clients and run like the Housework Service, which assists with gardening and minor DIY jobs.
- ❖ A *"Meals on Wheels" Service* with food delivery by volunteers and providing 50,000 meals each year, which we took over from the WRVS about 4 years ago.
- ❖ An *Advice and Information Service*, based in our Brown Street office, giving help and advice to 5,000 enquirers each year.
- ❖ Assistance to all Day Centres and Luncheon Clubs in the District.
- ❖ And finally, running our own Day Centre for older people with learning difficulties.

Age Concern Salisbury District is a fully autonomous charity, within the Age Concern England Federation, expending all income within the district boundaries. Primary income is from the County Council and the Health Authority but this is by no means adequate for the growing need. Even as I write, Wiltshire County Council

has stated its intention to dismantle and perhaps sub-contract its Home Care Service, reduce support in various other areas, increase charges for its services and reduce the number of people placed in residential and nursing homes. The effect of all this is vastly to increase the difficulty of keeping older people in their own homes.

Older people have a great fear of crime and a need for security. ACSD hopes that, with your help, it can alleviate this fear through improvements in practical matters, such as door chains, key safes and call systems.

Please let me know if you would like someone to talk at any of your meetings or attend any activities. Please contact me with any questions and ideas: Teddy Penn, Chairman Age Concern Salisbury District, telephone 01725 510133.

Charlton Afloat

Denis Blake

Remember those floods? The water is still over there in the water-meadows where the open flood-plain, in spite of the disappearance of carriers, hatches and those great men the "drowners", is doing what nature and man intended it to do - flood when needed.

The village has had some moments of high excitement, all of which have been seen before but not perhaps now within living memory. I remember the late Hilda Wort recalling when her family and friends used a rowing-boat to negotiate the length of Lower Road.

I suppose that it was the sight of our beloved Editor's family ferrying themselves along Chapel Lane in a canoe in order to get the school bus that prompted me to ponder in writing and see what happened.

We had some geographical and hydraulic "firsts" here in Charlton:- Loch Wear, Loch Ross, the River Box, Lake Robson and Lake Williams all added to the more commonly seen Church Pond, with the church standing faithfully and trustingly on its own reflection. "I wouldn't want to be buried there; under all that water!", said one of the youngest Charltonians.

One experience we had was one which I hope the authorities will not permit to be necessary ever again. Apart from the fact that, if the ditches in Warrens Lane were cleared properly there would be no water on the road surface, it was the conditions in Downton, Breamore and Fordingbridge that caused this "experience", compounded and infinitely aggravated by the woeful lack of action that allowed the Southampton Road of Salisbury to be so grossly and needlessly flooded. The queue of traffic waiting to get into or through Salisbury stretched way back almost to Pepperpot Hill at one time and easily half of that distance on several days: it was on one of those days that IT happened.

We needed to get to the Surgery in Moot Lane, Downton, on behalf of some neighbours. We had to go into Salisbury, out along the A36 Southampton Road - the eastbound carriageway out of the town was wet but not flooded - turn right, through the traffic queue, for Alderbury, Barford Lane and Downton.

Success! We got to the Surgery and collected what we had set out for. But then we had to get back...! Remember that queue on the Southampton Road, going IN to Salisbury? It was clearly some hours in length. The solution was to go from Downton to Redlynch and thence along the back lanes to the A36 and then turn left for Salisbury and leave the A36 for West Grimstead, West Dean, West Tytherley, The Warren and so over the hill and down on to the A30 where we turned left for Lopcombe Corner and Salisbury. There was a queue for the College Roundabout, of course, but at least we got home and the medicines were delivered. A round-trip of just 53 miles. Now IF it had been possible to keep poor Downton, the Bunny in the Borough especially, clear and free-flowing, as I believe actually WOULD have been feasible, then the round trip is a 6-mile bike ride but even that mode of transport was impossible on the day on which these ramblings are based.

At least we had some fun - those poor souls in Downton and all those places east and south of us had a sewage-laden, watery hell to cope with.

Let's face it, we here are lucky and have much for which to be thankful. It would have been fun if the Church Readings over this period had included Noah, but that would have been too much to hope for!

News & Notes - Live!

The *News & Notes* website is currently half way through production. If you have any comments, thoughts, reservations, articles for inclusion, please get them to the Editor as soon as possible! Contact details as on page 2.

Salisbury Diabetic Retinal Screening

Bernard Stubbs

17 February is the last time you can buy draw tickets for the Salisbury Diabetic Retinal Screening Fund. We have over thirty prizes: a mountain bike, three nights' hotel accommodation, six driving lessons, a Dorset caravan holiday in June and many more. Tickets are only £1 a book. Please ring Bernard on 01722 330006. The draw will take place at Milford Hall Hotel on 25 February.

The funds currently stand at over £12,000. We have £50,000 still to raise, and so we would very much value your support.

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

Radnor Hall Letting Fees

- ❖ Reduced rates for local residents of Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham
- ❖ The caretaker will clean after events - rate by agreement.
- ❖ Regular bookings - competitive reduced rates - by agreement.
- ❖ All fees are based upon events finishing at midnight - £15.00 per hr thereafter.
- ❖ Conditions of hire and booking forms available on request.
- ❖ To hire, contact Shirley Norris on 01722 329760.

	Parish Fee	Standard Fee
Wedding Reception	£40.00	£50.00
Addition for subsequent dance/disco	£20.00	£25.00
Dances & Social Events	£30.00	£50.00
Meetings (up to 3 hrs)	£12.00	£14.00
Meetings (over or under 3 hrs) per hr	£5.00	£5.50
Children's Parties	£15.00	£25.00
Jumble Sales	£25.00	£25.00
Exhibitions	£25.00	£35.00
Furniture Hire from	£15.00	£25.00
Heating Levy (1 October - 31 March)		
Main Hall	£7.50	£7.50
Meeting Room	£2.00	£2.00

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
Ebble Pre-school	Monday-Thursday 9.00 am - 12.30 contact Sharon Chandler 01722 329719
Parent & Toddler	Every Friday 9.30 - 11.30 am, Ebble Pre-school mobile, Odstock School
Mobile Library	Alternate Fridays (9 & 24 Feb): 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