

News and Notes

Issue 340

August 2004

Holidays - or the closed season

From a Church point of view August is often regarded as a supreme non-event. It is, after all the holiday season – Universities and Schools are enjoying the long vacation – Parliament is in recess – many shops, offices and factories are either short staffed or closed down for a period – unlike here in the Chalke Valley where farmers are exceptionally busy working long hours to get the harvest in. As congregations too are often depleted, there is unfortunately an idea that nothing of importance happens in August, and that the month is a slumbering, docile – warm, we hope – resting space between Trinity and Harvest Festival. However, this is most certainly not the case. August contains a rich variety of Festivals and Commemorations of great significance, although many of them are generally ignored. I have chosen just the four major festivals out of the many in the calendar.

The month begins with **Lammas Day**, the first herald of the harvest – especially important in a rural area like ours. It was a day on which, in the middle ages, the bread used at Holy Communion was the first loaf made from newly harvested wheat. Lammas means ‘loaf festival’ taken from the old English ‘*hlaf*’, loaf and ‘*maesse*’ festival. Most churches today would find 1st August a most inconvenient day on which to hold Harvest Festival – (and on the day of writing – 16th – I have yet to see a combine).

6th August is **The Transfiguration of our Lord**. The story of the Transfiguration of Jesus on the mount is told in the Gospels of Ss. Matthew, Mark and Luke, and Peter refers to it in his Second Epistle. Each time it is made clear that God’s salvation is for everyone and Jesus is the one who brings that salvation. The testimony of the law and the prophets to Jesus are given by the presence of Moses and Elijah and the event also prefigures the resurrection, giving a foretaste of the life of glory.

The Festival of **The Blessed Virgin Mary** is celebrated on 15th August and is the Patronal Festival of our three churches at Odstock, Homington and Alvediston. When an angel told Mary she was to be the bearer of the Son of God, her reply, ‘Let it be to me according to your word’ encapsulated her obedience to God and her reverence for His Word. This day is now celebrated as the major feast of Mary throughout most of Christendom.

Bartholomew the Apostle is celebrated on 24th August – one of Jesus’ men about whom we know comparatively little. It has always been assumed that Bartholomew is the same as Nathaniel though it is not a certainty. The gospels speak of Philip bringing Nathaniel to Jesus and calling him an ‘Israelite worthy of the name’ He is also present beside the Sea of Galilee at the resurrection. Although he seems initially a somewhat cynical man, he recognises Jesus for who he is and proclaims him as Son of God.

But there is much also to ponder on from the history of our own times. 4th August commemorates the outbreak of war in 1914 –and what a holocaust that turned out to be with the deaths of over three million people. And since that day the world has not been the same. August 1939 saw the events throughout Europe that presaged the Second World War. 6th August remembers the dropping of the first atom bomb on Hiroshima in 1945. In 1946 I stood among the ruins of that city and saw the complete devastation of a once proud city – and what was sown that day was harvested for years afterwards as the inhabitants succumbed to radiation. 8th August saw another atom bomb fall on Nagasaki, obliterating the largest Christian Cathedral in the East. Thirty five years ago in August 1969 saw the outbreak of violence in Northern Ireland.

Then again, in peacetime between the wars and post-war, the newspapers referred to August as the ‘silly season’ because the absence of news made any evidence of light-heartedness good enough news to print. But our prayer must always be for the Kingdom of God on earth. It is often when the vagaries of social movement are at their maximum that the still small voice of the Holy Spirit can be heard most clearly. In the midst of all the conflicts in the Middle East at this present time let us pray for ‘that peace’ which only Jesus can give. The challenge of our faith is not to let go but to show others the joy and absolute fulfilment of being a follower of Christ.

Westley Cole

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

WI

Sue Bourne

Our last meeting of the present season, held on 12th July, was chaired by our President, Julia Joynt, and we had an excellent turn out of members. Julia thanked Barbara Robertson for the beautiful arrangement on the President's table and also for making our 60th anniversary birthday cake (with the help of Joy Saunders) for the Garden Party last month.

Joan Johns, of Sarum WI, who was our delegate at the WI AGM in Sheffield, gave an interesting and amusing resumé of the meeting, together with the results of the voting on the three resolutions. The business meeting covered forthcoming events, theatre plans for the autumn season and result of our Garden Party, which were excellent. Julia thanked all those members, and John Barrow, who had helped to set it up, run the stalls and clear up at the end. She also thanked those who supported and helped at the three stalls we ran at the Fête. Our stalls made a total of about £450, well up on last year.

During our coffee break, Jean O'Rourke ran an excellent raffle (ably assisted by Betty Marks and Ruth Austen). She kindly donated all the prizes as she says she cannot help in other ways and as a special thank you to our WI for all the friends she has made since joining us. The raffle made £58 - a marvellous contribution to our funds. The Flower of the Month Competition was won by Julia's unusual sprig of sea holly.

This was followed by a both fascinating and very light-hearted talk by Dr David Parrott on "The Singer Family and Salisbury", telling of the very chequered family history, from the family's origins in the U.S., with the production of the Singer sewing machine on which their fortune was founded, to the more recent family connections with Salisbury and Norman Court (once their home and now a school). Rita Hobbs (our expert on a Singer sewing machine) gave the vote of thanks.

Two days later was our summer outing when 52 WI members and their guests spent a most enjoyable day at Uppark House in West Sussex. It is the National Trust property that suffered a devastating fire in 1989. There was a most interesting exhibition showing the amazing work carried out by teams of experts to return the house to its former glory. We had plenty of time to tour the house and gardens and to enjoy the restaurant and NT shop. On the return journey Julia thanked Judith Johnson for organising so many wonderful outings over many years - Judith is now taking well-earned retirement from the job. She will be a very hard act to follow.

September will be the start of our new programme year with our Promotional Meeting on 13th September at the Radnor Hall, starting at 10am, when

the speaker will be Mrs Sheila Attenborough whose subject is "Working in Silver". Her talk will be followed by a ploughman's lunch to include dessert, wine or soft drink and coffee for £4 - a real bargain. All visitors will be most welcome.

Odstock Primary School News

Despite the fact that the end of another school year draws to a close we are as busy as ever organising lots of fun activities.

Our Year 5 and 6 children took part in a science and technology day at South Wilts Grammar School where they were involved with a robotics challenge.

During the last week of term we are hosting a Leavers' Carnival, a sports challenge afternoon followed by an evening of sport and a barbecue, and on the last day of term each child is invited to bring in a toy for the day.

We held a "tidy up" weekend at the beginning of July and this was a huge success. The garden has been weeded and lots of new plants added as well as the inside of the building being given a late "spring" clean.

We all enjoyed the Fête and did well with our toy stall, face painting and lucky dip - despite the downpours towards the end.

In September we are looking forward to welcoming not only our new reception children but others who are joining us further up the school and, of course, we have our Ofsted inspection mid-month.

We would also like to wish our head teacher, Melanie Sykes-Ellis, all the very best for her wedding on 14th August in St Mary's Church, Odstock. When we return she will be known as Mrs Sweeney.

Wishing you all a happy holiday.

Ace of Hearts Appeal

The Tucker Family

The following amounts have been raised for this appeal:

£181.50 - Car Boot Stall on 13th June
£330.00 - Stall in Hospital Foyer on 6th July
£198.00 - Stall at the Fête on 10th July

VERY MANY THANKS to everyone who has contributed throughout the year in helping us to raise a total of £3001.00 towards the £1 million needed for the Cardiac Suite which has now been reached.

"Wings over Charlton"

There will be a talk entitled "Wings over Charlton" given by Steve Oakes in Charlton All Saints Church on 22nd October at 7.30pm. The evening will include cheese and wine. Please put the date in your diary and watch out for further details in News and Notes.

Charlton All Saints Barbecue

Barabara Box

A big thank you to everybody for enjoying yourselves at the Barbecue on 3rd July and making it a super evening. We raised £630.91.

Keep all your cracked or chipped crockery for next year and we'll have a smashing time.

Odstock, Nunton and Bodenham Fête

Brian Blake

It is still too early to be able to declare this year's surplus, but the early indications are good. Certainly, Peter Pod and the Peas proved more popular than ever and the extra entertainments on Saturday drew a large crowd. Fête week is one of the things that make living in these villages special for many of us. The week brings the opportunity to work and play alongside people we might perhaps see only infrequently, if at all.

Planning for next year will start soon. I would be pleased to hear from anyone with views or ideas – what went well, what could have been done better, any side shows or attractions you would particularly like to see next year. If you have views, please speak to any committee member, or call/email me on 01722 340261 / brian.blake@salisbury.ac.uk.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone who helped with this year's events and, of course, everyone who turned up and spent some money!

Bodenham Post Office Store and Tea Garden

Now open 7 days a week for the summer

Mon - Fri 8.30 - 5.30,

Sat 8.30 - 5.00, Sun 10.30 - 5.00

Groceries, Off licence,

Organic Free Range Eggs,

Cards and Stationery

Photocopying and Laminating

Hog Roast

at Bodenham

Saturday, 14th August, 6.00pm

Tickets £6

available at the Post Office 01722 329727

Everyone welcome!

Nunton Churchyard

Adrian Taylor

If anyone would be interested in helping to cut the grass in Nunton Churchyard on a regular basis, please give me a ring on 01722 325862.

Lunch at Nunton Vicarage

Alison Williams

All are welcome to the joint service of Parish Communion at 11.00am on Sunday 29th August at St Andrews, Nunton which will be followed by a lunch at the Vicarage. Please bring some savoury food to share. Drinks and puddings will be provided.

Benefice Non Residential Weekend

6th and 7th November

David Henley

Plans are well underway for another weekend for the whole Benefice on similar lines to that held in Broad Chalke in March 2002. This time it will be at Coombe Bissett, using the Church, Fellowship Chapel, School and Village Hall, and aims to draw together people of wide interests and outlooks.

The programme will include thought-provoking seminars, good food, worship and a chance to meet new people in the valley.

It will be led by Revd Tim Woods, Director of Church and Society for the Diocese and he will be writing an article in the next edition of Chalke Talk.

The planning group have taken note of comments made after the last weekend. For instance there will be fewer but longer seminars on the Saturday. There will also be provision for children for the Saturday morning to make it easier for families to attend. The programme, details of seminars and a response form will be included in the September and October editions of Chalke Talk.

Separate tickets will be available for Saturday (which will be the main teaching and activity day) and Sunday (which will include a family lunch for all in the Village Hall).

There will be one main Sunday Morning Service plus two 8am Holy Communions elsewhere in the Benefice and then an ecumenical evening at the URC Chapel in Broad Chalke.

Once you have your ticket, you don't have to attend every session, but the more you come to, the more you will get out of it.

**Please put the weekend in your diary
and come if you possibly can.**

Church of England Services

Sunday, 1st August Trinity 8	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 6.00pm	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion Parish Communion Evening Prayer BCP	Nunton Britford Coombe Bissett Homington	WC WC TS WC
Sunday, 8th August Trinity 9	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion Family Service Morning Prayer BCP	Homington Odstock Coombe Bissett Charlton All Saints	AW AW AW WC
Sunday, 15th August Trinity 10	8.00am 9.30am 9.30am 11.00am	Holy Communion BCP Family Communion Morning Service Parish Communion BCP	Britford Nunton Homington Coombe Bissett	AW WC AW AW
Sunday, 22nd August Trinity 11	8.00am 9.30am 11.00am 11.00am	Holy Communion BCP Parish Communion Morning Prayer BCP Morning Service	Homington Charlton All Saints Coombe Bissett Odstock	AW AW WC AW
Sunday, 29th August Trinity 12	11.00am	Parish Communion <i>followed by a shared lunch at Nunton Vicarage</i>	Nunton	AW

TS = Revd Terry Sankey, WC = Revd Westley Cole, AW = Revd Alison Williams
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 (except Aug.) 9.45–11.45am, Radnor Hall, Bodenham, contact Suzie Orchiton on 01722 502026
Mobile Library	Alternate Wednesdays (11 th , 25 th): Brookmead, Britford 10.00 – 10.20am Phone Box, Charlton 10.30 – 10.45am, Radnor Arms, Nunton 11.00 – 11.20am

August Dates for Your Diary

14 th August	Hog Roast, Bodenham, 6.00pm <i>Tickets £6.00 available at Bodenham Post Office 01722 329727</i>
20 th August	News and Notes deadline (see below)

Advance Dates

27 th September	Charlton All Saints Garden Society, 7.30pm - “Season of mist and mellow fruitfulness” - speaker Barbara Last
2 nd October	Harvest Supper (Charlton)
22 nd October	“Wings over Charlton” - a talk by Steve Oakes plus cheese and wine, Charlton Church, 7.30 (<i>details to follow</i>)
31 st October	Grand Pumpkin Competition Weigh-in, <i>Seeds at £2.50 available from Radnor Arms</i>
6 th /7 th Nov.	Benefice Weekend - <i>see page 3 for details</i>
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

News and Notes Funding

News and Notes, which costs around £40 a month to produce, is funded by voluntary donations and some revenue from a small amount of “commercial” advertising. Funds are getting a bit low just now and so Neil Guttridge, our Treasurer (*see above for details*) would be delighted to receive a contribution towards future issues from any individual or organisation that feels able to make one. If you have something to advertise, please contact Adrian Taylor, the Editor, whose details are also above. Thank you.