

February 1998

The Wood And The Trees

Writing in the middle of January, the recent storms are fresh in my mind along with the memory of seeing a large tree come crashing down. Suddenly there is now a large gap in the landscape.

I remember hearing a story about three trees in a forest. On hearing that they were to be chopped down, they started discussing what they would like to become. The first thought that something useful like a feeding trough would be just the thing. The second hoped to be made into a marvellous ship which could carry precious cargoes far across the oceans. The third thought hard and then said, "Actually I quite like standing here – people always know where they are when they pass me. So perhaps I should become a signpost so that when people are lost they will know which way to go". Soon the woodcutters arrived and started cutting down the trees, but they were not sad because each found itself used in the way it hoped. The feeding trough was bought by an innkeeper from Bethlehem and one dark night it was used as a cradle for the newborn Jesus. The marvellous ship turned out to be a rather small fishing boat on the Sea of Galilee, but it was able to boast of a truly precious cargo when the adult Jesus preached his Good News from it. The third tree was rather puzzled at first when, rather than being made into a signpost, it was turned into a cross for crucifixion; yet everything became clear when Jesus was nailed there.

The beginning of February sees what is really the end of our Christmas celebrations: the Feast of Candlemas, rather like the story of the three trees, allows us to glance back at the manger in Bethlehem before turning our attention firmly towards the teaching of the adult Jesus and ultimately towards the cross, where our journey finds its fulfilment. Candlemas is a 'bitter-sweet' festival in that it links the Presentation of Jesus to his Father in the Temple with the prophecy to Mary that her heart would be pierced by sorrow, foretelling Jesus' death. So we bid the manger farewell, and continue with our journey towards the cross.

Graham Southgate

Church Services

Sunday 1 February	8.00 am	Holy Communion	BCP	GS	Nunton
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	ASBB	SHW	Britford
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	AT	Odstock
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	ASBB	GS/WC	Coombe
	6.00 pm	Evensong	BCP	GS	Homington
Sunday 8 February	8.00 am	Holy Communion	BCP	GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	ASBA	GS	Nunton
	11.00 am	Family Service		RR	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	WC	Charlton
Sunday 15 February	9.30 am	Parish Communion (JC)	ASBA	SW	Odstock
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	ASBA	GS	Charlton
	9.30 am	Matins	BCP	WC	Homington
	11.00 am	Parish Communion	BCP	KC/WC	Coombe
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	GS	Britford
Sunday 22 February	8.00 am	Holy Communion	BCP	GS	Homington
	9.30 am	Parish Communion	ASBA	GS	Charlton
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	WC	Nunton
	11.00 am	Matins	BCP	GS	Coombe

GS = Graham Southgate, WC = Westley Cole, SW = Sydney Willcox, KC = Karen Curnock, AT = Annabel Tier, RR = Roger Redding. If anyone would like a lift to any of the services, please telephone Debby Underhill on 01722 329769.

From the Editor

Our issue this month has been funded by Hazel and Peter Docherty - thank you very much. Following new arrangements for the photocopying of *News & Notes*, the monthly production cost has been reduced to £32.50. If anyone would like to sponsor an issue, you will receive not only our grateful thanks, but also an advertisement for yourself, your business or a charity of your choice on the front page. What a bargain! 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 ClarePenny@aol.com. 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 20 February.

News from the Vicarage

Some of you attended - and enjoyed - a training day at Coombe Bissett Village Hall for those involved in All Age worship during Advent and Christmas. The day was organised by my fellow Team Vicar, the Reverend Roger Redding. Well, he has been at it again! This time he has arranged a training day entitled Palms, Nails and Moving Stones to help us prepare for Holy Week and Easter. The date is Saturday 14 March and the venue will again be the Village Hall, Coombe Bissett. Please phone Roger if you want further details (01722 780408).

One of the curates in the Team - the Reverend Karen Curnock - has now taken on the responsibility of producing Chalke Talk, the valley-wide news sheet which complements each of our parish magazines. So if you would like publicity throughout the valley for an event you are organising then please contact Karen at Ashlands, Newtown, Broad Chalke, SP5 5DS or KCurnock@aol.com.

The Youth Church - now called the Charlton Web - continues to meet, normally at Charlton All Saints Parish Church. It is meant for those of the age range 15-25 years, so if you are interested give me a ring and I will give you the latest news.

Since March has five Sundays there will be an Eastern Group Communion Service, this time at St Mary's, Odstock on 29 March. It will be an extra special service since the Bishop of Ramsbury will be in attendance - his last visit to the Benefice before his retirement in April. The service will begin at the slightly later time of 10.30 am, and will be followed by a buffet-style lunch at the Radnor Hall, Bodenham. Please put the date in your diary.

The Bishop of Salisbury will be spending Lent in the Archdeaconry of Sarum and he has asked that we all keep two occasions together: the evening of Ash Wednesday at the Minster Church, Warminster and the Easter Vigil at St Lawrence's Church, Downton. In addition, he hopes to spend one day in our own Deanery of Chalke, possibly the 25th March.

Finally, I would be grateful if you could inform me whenever any of your neighbours goes into hospital, if you

know of any new arrivals to the parish, or if you know of any others whom you feel may like a visit.

Graham Southgate

Mrs Grace Barker Many were saddened to hear of the sudden death of Grace Barker on 13 January; she had been ill for a short while and had only gone into hospital the night before. Grace had lived in Nunton most of her life and had a long connection with the church there: many will remember her exploring what had become a rather overgrown churchyard and helping her husband Bill bring order to it. Grace was often to be seen cleaning and polishing inside the church as well, even up to a week before she died. She rounded off her service to the parish when she became a Churchwarden for Nunton church in succession to Bill. Many will know of her other involvements, offering quiet service to the community she loved: such as helping with the Coffee Mornings at the Orchard, organising the Thursday Whist Drives in the Barker Room, and giving help whenever it was needed. The packed church at her funeral service on 20 January bore witness to her valued place within both parish and village. Her remains now rest alongside those of Bill in Nunton Churchyard.

Holy Days in February

2 - Presentation of Christ in the Temple (Candlemas)
8.00 am Holy Communion at Nunton.

23 - Ash Wednesday - 8.00 am Holy Communion at Nunton.

From the Registers

Holy Baptism On Sunday 4 January at Odstock: Morgana Frances Henderson, daughter of Rachel (nee Grant) and Jeremy Henderson, sister to Patrick.

Burials In January at Charlton All Saints: Aurelia Phyllis Earney (cremated remains).

On Wednesday 21 January at Nunton: Ruby Grace Barker (cremated remains).

In Aid of the Leukaemia Research Fund

Lecture with exquisite slides to be given by **Rupert Attlee**
author of

"The Trail to Titicaca"

An incredible 6,408 miles journey through Chile,
Argentina & Bolivia by three inexperienced cyclists.

Saturday 21 March in The Radnor Hall, Bodenham
Doors open 6.30 pm for 7.00 pm

Tickets £4.50 to include refreshment available at the
beginning of March from Bodenham Post Office, Percy
Prior's music shop 5 Catherine Street Salisbury & Sutton's
music shop.

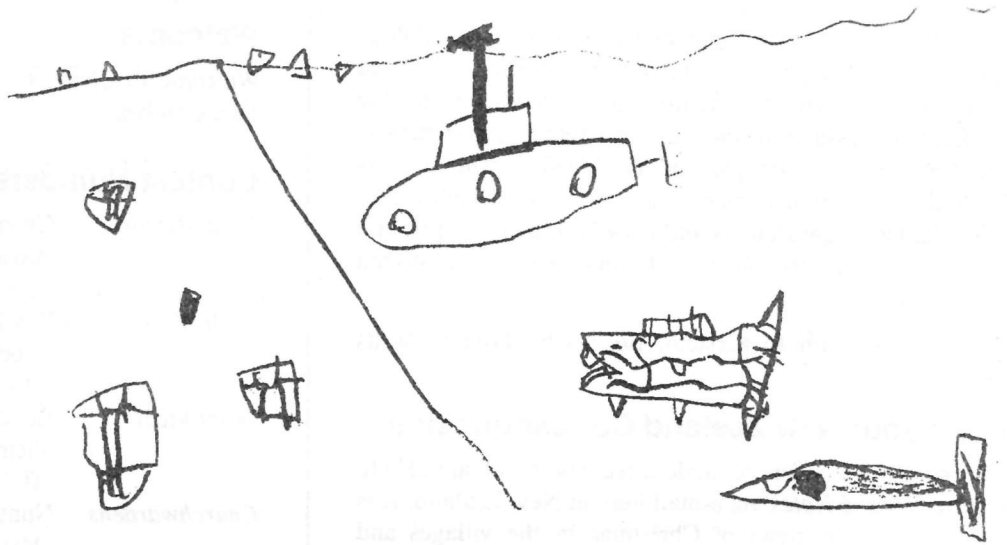
London Marathon

Bernard Stubbs has a place in the London Marathon. He is raising money for Salisbury Diabetic Association. If you want to sponsor him, please ring him on 01722 330006. Many thanks.

Magic Submarine

The following poem was written and illustrated by Alexander Jones, age 7, a pupil at Britford Primary School:

*Magic magic submarine
Take me to far away seas
Where no ships come
And new fish swim
And sand is crystals and gold
The seaweed is silver and rubies
Seals bark
Sharks leave you in peace.*



WI

The January meeting was held in the Barker Room, Nunton. The President, Mrs Sue Bourne, welcomed 2 new members. Eleven members were bravely joined by Harry Joynt on the annual visit to the Pantomime at the Playhouse, which was greatly enjoyed by everyone. £100 had been received from the Fete committee. The Raffle and Bring & Buy at the Christmas meeting had made £171.35 and £27.53 had been sent to ACWW. On 27 April at Dennis Marsh House, the Resolutions for the Brighton Conference will be discussed. The President announced that Mrs Joan Dixon would be stepping down from organising our programme. She thanked her for all her dedication and hard work in getting us such an excellent variety of speakers over a number of years. Mrs Doreen Osmond would be taking over in September. The flower of the month was won by Mrs Margaret Barrow with a blue pansy. The April meeting would be held on 20 April, not 13 April which is Easter Monday. The next meeting will be on 9 February and the speaker will be the Hon Mrs Linsay Brooke, on An Ex-Cabinet Minister's Wife's View of Northern Ireland.

Mrs Vi Bath gave us a fascinating talk with slides on her Journey to India. She had visited her daughter Joy in 1981 who was a missionary nurse in the Bihar province of Eastern India. Originally sent for one year, Joy stayed for six years, doing mainly dispensary work, but also teaching English as a foreign language. She gave us a vivid description of life and death in this highly populated, poverty-stricken province, through which the River Ganges flows.

Judy Barke

Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Most readers will not know that our parish is one of the seventy or so which lie within one of the thirty-seven Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty up and down England. These are much less well-known, but in landscape terms no less important, than the seven National Parks, which are administered differently, and have the added and onerous responsibility of catering for recreation.

Our own AONB, established as long ago as 1983, is called Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs. We who live in it know that it is a thoroughly rural area. It actually has no towns at all, the boundary running along the outside edges of Salisbury, and then (clockwise) past, not through,

Fordingbridge, Wimborne, Blandford, Shaftesbury, Warminster and Wilton.

It contains two expanses of high chalk downland, separated by the Vale of Wardour in the southern half and the Wylde Valley in the northern. Some AONBs are more famous, for example The Cotswolds, a name moreover which trips off the tongue much better than ours does; but none is more beautiful. What we all need to realise is that it is fairly and squarely up to us, its residents, to retain its distinctiveness.

AONB designation is a national process aimed at conserving and enhancing 'natural beauty', a term which includes geological, historical, scientific and wildlife features as well as the visual qualities and physical characteristics. Responsibility for all this rests with the local authorities, encouraged by The Countryside Commission which currently channels only £2m annually towards projects; this contrasts with £17m for National Parks. So in our own case it is Dorset and Wiltshire (plus for a very few parishes, Hampshire and Somerset) County Councils and the relevant District Councils which share with us who live here, the task of caring for this AONB.

In order to raise local awareness, there has been every autumn since 1995 a consultative seminar, held in the Area near the county border. These have been interesting and worthwhile occasions attracting by invitation about 75 people each time, and reasonably representative of the farmers and landowners concerned, and of a good number of voluntary and statutory organisations involved in the Area. Issues such as farm development and diversification, the needs of communities, and landscape management have been discussed. Concerted action is not easy, since seven District Councils are inside the Area, and many different groupings of other bodies. But some modest suggestions are emerging. These include the placing of boundary signs, such as we are familiar with on entering or leaving a National Park. Another is that we should tactfully encourage farmers and landowners to cut their hedges only every two years, and then to do them to an A-shape, which is far more bird and small mammal-friendly than the low flat top which is all too common today. But other ideas will be most gratefully received. Do please write with them to your own County Authority: Jeffery Chandler, Environmental Services Department, Wiltshire County Council, County Hall, Trowbridge, Wiltshire BA4 8JD. He is very much behind the writing of this article.

The challenge to every one of us is to manage change creatively, so that by our joint efforts we keep this Area Beautiful. It will be increasingly difficult, given the conflicting pressures of the next few years. Awareness is the first step: we are part of an AONB. The next is grasping the complementary roles of the local authorities, the voluntary organisations and ourselves the residents, and giving time and trouble to act upon them in a shared responsibility.

From Bishop John Bickersteth, Beckfords, Tisbury, Wilts SP3 6NY

From your New Zealand Correspondents

Thanks to the wonders of modern technology we are able to receive *News & Notes* via e-mail here in New Zealand. It is good to read the news of Christmas in the villages and particularly Peter Ford's excellent account of this year's Village Revue.

Stephanie and I are halfway through our period of sabbatical leave and very much enjoying our working holiday in New Zealand. I have been able to find temporary employment in a number of contrasting practices in different parts of New Zealand and have enjoyed the experience of working in a health care system very different from the NHS.

We have taken full advantage of the opportunity to travel and experience the natural beauty of these islands and the adventurous outdoor life that Kiwis enjoy.

It is of course mid summer over here and for me the first experience of Christmas in the sun. We attended Midnight Mass at the Auckland Cathedral, a very hot summer night. Most of the congregation were in shirt sleeves and shorts, all the doors of the cathedral were open and a gentle breeze offered some relief from the heat. The Bishop however, wearing the heavy cloak of his office might have been more comfortable in an English Church.

On Christmas Day gentle rain brought some relief from the heat. We enjoyed a very traditional day with some New Zealand relatives although dinner was cooked on the barbecue.

We would like to wish all our friends in the villages a very Happy New Year. We look forward to seeing you again at Easter. Sherwood & Stephanie Elcock

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Welcome

Welcome to Charlton Steve and Liz Oakes, and Rob and Jane Combes.

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, The Vicarage, Ebbesbourne Wake 01722 780408 (Day off - Mon)
<i>Team Vicar</i>	Revd Dr Graham Southgate, Nunton Vicarage, Nunton 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

Dates for your Diary

9 February	WI meeting
10 February	Team Council, Bishopstone Village Hall, 7.30 pm
14 March	All Age Worship meeting, Coombe Bissett Village Hall
17/18 February	Start of Kaleidoscope Course for those wishing to extend their skills in working with children. Tuesdays - Tisbury 10.00 am, Wednesdays - Coombe 7.30 pm. Contact Roger Redding, or Eve Warner-Howard, Diocesan Children's Advisor on 01722 411977 for details.
21 March	The Trail to Titicaca, The Radnor Hall 7.00 pm
20-22 March	Weekend at Harnhill Healing Centre. Contact Caroline Lamb on 01722 780789 for details.
29 March	Group Communion Service at Odstock Church, 10.30 am, attended by Bishop Ramsbury

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
Bingo	Every Friday, 7.30 pm - 9.30 pm The Orchard, Nunton
Singing Group	Every Tuesday, 8.00 pm, contact Adrian Taylor on 01722 325862
Mobile Library	Alternate Fridays (13 & 27 Feb): Village Hut, Charlton 9.45 am Alternate Tuesdays (3 & 17 Feb): Brookmead, Britford 10.10 am Post Office, Bodenham 10.30 am Radnor Arms, Nunton 10.45 am Crossroads, Odstock 11.15 am