

PARISH NEWS

St Cuthberts, Wells and St Mary Magdalene, Wookey Hole

February 2014

O, Wind,
If Winter
comes, can
Spring be
far behind?

P.B.Shelley



February thoughts

by Alistair Glanville

When I was a child I, like most children, played with Plasticine. It was great fun modelling animals and other things with the brightly coloured material although I wasn't really very artistic. When you first opened the packet there were these strips of red and yellow and green and white plasticine all bright and new and as long as you were careful they stayed like that. The one thing you couldn't do was mix them up because if you did then all you were left with was a boring grey blob.

I was thinking about how there seems to be a movement in our society to turn everything into grey boring blobs. We are so keen to not to be seen to be different that we are in danger of levelling everything down. The Bishop is not going to be living in the Palace. It's the wrong sort of address to have now even though the bishops have only been living in a small flat in the Palace. It seems to make more sense to pay £700,000 for another house in the interim until they find the right place for him. There is a move to allow clergy to wear whatever they like instead of vestments because wearing robes makes them look different from their congregations. I

look forward to the day when people like Alice from The Vicar of Dibley will be making Rev Kev's clothes. The language we use in church must be so simple that everyone can understand it even if it means diluting the meaning. We must not offend anyone by saying anything which may possibly worry or puzzle them.

Our political leaders, Dave, Nick and Ed don't wear ties anymore because an open necked shirt makes them more like the man in the street. Dress down Friday means that people in offices wear jeans and casual shirts and it is supposed to make for a more relaxed attitude. The attitude seems to be to bring everything down to its lowest level. But Jesus's message was that we should aim for the best. He said that everything He did we could do but even more. He came to show us what we were capable of and that only our best was good enough. When I wear my Reader's robes people do not see me, they see a representative of the church. The organisation is more important than the person in the robes. St Paul said that no one should boast about being for Peter or Paul but only of belonging to Christ.

I know this seems like the rantings of a grumpy old man and they are only my views and not those of the Vicar or churchwardens but it worries me that in our drive to be all things to all people we are losing sight of the need to bring light and colour and hope and beauty to the people we serve. Everybody needs to have something to aim for. We all need something to lift our spirits and inspire us to aim even higher. Dumbing down just drags everything down with it and that is not what I want to see of the church or the world. The higher your aspirations the higher your success and the reverse is true as well. With God's help and guidance may we try our best and give of our best.

Alistair G.

Monthly Traidcraft Stall

After more years than I care to remember running the Fair Trade table in St Cuthbert's, with very great regret I have to inform everyone that the table on 17th February will be the final one. This has been a very difficult decision to come to, but with the falling congregation and lack of support there is no other way. To the loyal handful of people who have continued to support us: my gratitude to you, and I am very sorry. Now if there are any goods you wish to buy, we can order them direct from Sharon Haigh.

St Cuthbert's PCC has been kept in the loop about this.
Vera

St Cuthbert's Ladies' Group.

No meeting this month, but a meal together at The Crown on Tuesday 18th February at 7.00 for 7.30pm for those who have handed in their food order. If you haven't done so by now, then I'm sorry but you are too late!

This will be the first fund-raiser for this year's charity following the AGM in January, so do please support the raffle both by bringing along a donation, and also buying a ticket.

The programme for the year will be available at the dinner; if you are unable to come along, do please ask Bid or Sarah for a programme afterwards.

Bid

Seeking justice is 'absolutely central' to Christian faith

When Christians speak in public about community flourishing or about justice, there's always someone who will pop up and ask why we're sticking our noses in, as if these things were miles away from the proper concerns of Christianity.

Recently there have been the issues of money and credit unions and power costs of which the church has spoken. Stick to God, we are told. So we do, and we find Jesus saying: Love God, love neighbour.

The common good of the community and justice are absolutely central to what it means to be a Christian. They flow from the love of Jesus on the Cross, offering salvation, enabling justice and human freedom.

Loving God and loving our neighbour go together like the warp and the weft of a piece of fabric. They hold each other in place and together can be strong, and beautiful, and adaptable, for any number of uses.

But each without the other would be disconnected strands. When we weave them together in our life as people of God, we open up a range of possibilities that can make a real difference. Possibilities that can transform lives and transform communities.

That is our calling. We don't speak about common good and justice because we think we have some automatic right to be heard, but because loving our neighbour places responsibilities upon us.

We have responsibilities to act, to do what we can to make a difference, to work for our neighbour's flourishing, to bring justice. We have responsibilities to speak, even when it might be easier to stay quiet, to point to injustice and to challenge others to join us in righting it.

It shouldn't come as a surprise to anyone that the Church is part of the solution for building community blessing at local level – although I suspect that it might be questioned by some.

We need the imagination to see where we can do more. And we need to be rooted in that vision God has set out for us, of welfare and of justice. It is the common good and justice that transforms our communities.

Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury

What NOT to give her for Valentine's Day:



1. A box of chocolates, clumsily rearranged, because you ate all the caramel ones.
2. Lingerie that you think will look almost as good on her as on the model.
3. Any clothing item with the words 'push-up' or 'slim-down' on the label.
4. Any food item with the words 'diet', 'light', or 'high fibre' on the label.
5. Any video starring Sylvester Stallone, Jim Carrey, or Angelina Jolie.
6. Flowers from a hospital's gift shop.
7. Anything you ever gave another woman, including your mother.
8. Any household appliance or power tool.
9. A gift certificate.
10. Cash.

From Wookey Hole:

Lucy and Elizabeth wish all the readers of this magazine and all our parishioners a very happy and healthy New Year. While we are luckily free of floods in Wookey Hole we think of our neighbours, afflicted in Somerset, and remember them in our prayers.

We had a good Christmas in St Mary Magdalene with a beautifully decorated church, a lovely tall Christmas tree given to us by David Scarth and well attended services where we were happy to see some new faces, including

(continued)

children, visiting friends and relations and the grown up "children" of members of our congregation, returning for the holiday.

Juliet had worked very hard on rehearsing the orchestra and choir with all the difficulties of busy people not being available for all the practices just near Christmas. We owe her a tremendous debt of gratitude for using all her skill and dedication to the greater glory of God, always wonderfully backed up by Lucy, not only to organise us but to give us the joy of their own performances.

Christmas celebrations began with the Carol Service when our village choir was augmented by the choir of St Cuthbert's who together sang a Rutter anthem and Holy Night. We were delighted that they were happy to join us. The service started with Freya Healy singing very beautifully the traditional solo opening of "Once in Royal David's City". Les, Lucy and Juliet (on cello for once instead of violin or piano) accompanied the carols.

On Saturday 21st we enjoyed a village concert, carefully timed to allow one of the violinists to fly in from her holiday in Spain! The orchestra played a varied programme ranging from Handel to a contemporary Tea Dance Suite. The choir sang several songs and there were solo and small group items from various villagers and poetry readings from adults and children co-ordinated by Edith. We are so lucky to have such a variety of talent in our small village.

This year we were very glad to welcome a good number of children to the crib service ranging from a baby to teenagers, who assembled the stable and its occupants ready for Midnight mass, luckily this year free from the 2012 hazard of snowfall and a valiant, trudging curate.

Our Christmas Day service was also very well attended, with Rosemary Darby as organist and Lucy and Juliet playing part of Corelli's Christmas Concerto. We all feel Christmas was most joyfully celebrated.

There will be a coffee morning in the Community Hall, at the foot of School Hill at 10.30 till 12.30 am raising money for church flowers. Free entry, coffee and cake: £2. Bargain table, and raffle.

Lucy and Elizabeth

Fair Trade Fortnight in Wells this year.

Lucy White writes: I am writing about this fortnight as it will already be happening before the March magazine arrives on your doorstep.



Short list of events :

Wednesday 26th February. St Cuthbert's lunch devoted to fairly traded food and goods, served from 12.00am - there will be FairTrade coffee available from 10.00am.

Saturday 1st March. Waitrose fairtrade stall for the day.

Monday 3rd March. Foncho in the Cathedral Cafe 2.30—4.00pm

Saturday 8th March. Tessa Munt MP holds surgery in Strangers Cafe, St Cuthbert Street 9.00-10am

We on the the Fairtrade committee are delighted to let you know that an eloquent and impassioned banana farmer is visiting Wells from Columbia to talk to us and to our primary and secondary school children about what Fairtrade means to him and his family, banana growers for generations, and to ask us to tune in to the realities of what is a tough trading time.

He is coming on Monday the 3rd of March and between 2.30 and 4.00pm will be at the Cathedral Cafe to tell us about his life, how much the Fair Trade movement has helped his family and what the future might be. He will tell us how we, as buyers, can help in hard times, such as now when supermarkets are trying to force down prices of bananas (using loose bananas) to attract us into their shops to tempt us, and selling bananas at a lower price even than that which they themselves have paid. For the farmers producing these bananas this is having the (unintended ?) consequences of forcing them to charge less too. You will hear more details of this if you can go and listen to him on Monday 3rd March.

He will tell you also how, one way and another, Fairtrade has made a huge difference to the community's prospects by ensuring a fair wage that enables them to not merely subsist but actually afford education for the next generation. Foncho's father was a founder member of Coobafrio cooperative, set up in the late 1990's and which has 43 members harvesting 30 boxes of Fairtrade bananas a week for export.

Of his banana growing Foncho writes " This (banana) tree is a part of me. It's in my heart. It has to be. This plant needs love. I care about it as if it were a person, because it takes care of me as well." The family's prospects are dependent on each of us here persuading supermarkets, by choosing not to buy cheap loose bananas, that we the customers still care very much about the welfare of those who supply our foods.

The supermarket Waitrose are throwing their weight behind the Fairtrade fortnight initiative and a stall will be mounted by our committee on the precinct outside their shop on Saturday 1st March. Other shops and the other supermarkets are also being asked to give the fortnight a high profile in their shops so please keep your eyes skinned for these efforts. There will be a banner over the ring road which should attract attention.

Tessa Munt, our MP is also showing her concern for these issues by holding her surgery in Strangers Coffee Shop on Saturday 8th March. This cafe owner, Mr Hewitt, is committed to Fairtrade because it means he deals directly with the worker farmer. He says that it is ensuring their fair and lawful rights, taking environmental responsibility and pursuing community projects: "all in all, a fair deal at source and a partnership that is supportive of the local community. That is what fairtrade means to me as an end user." We hope you will attend this surgery and ask questions about Fairtrade and our government's commitment to it.

On Wednesday 26th February St Cuthbert's regular church lunch will itself be celebrating Fairtrade fortnight. The meal will be cooked with Fairtrade ingredients and there will be stalls of Fairtrade goods. Juliet and Lucy will provide background (fairlytraded?!) music.

Please come to this and support us in our efforts to raise the profile of this important movement and continue to buy Fairly traded goods if it is possible for you to do so.

Lucy

(continued)

WOOKEY HOLE W.I.

The first meeting of the New Year was busy and enjoyable despite several members being tucked up at home nursing annual coughs and colds. After the usual business with members reminded of “dates for their diaries”, Jill reported that our tree entered in the St. Cuthbert's Christmas Tree Festival had come 2nd and raised a considerable sum for A.C.W.W.

The highlight of the afternoon was our speaker, Mr. Philip Hoyland, whose subject was “Benefits, Brass and the Girtest, Grandest Day”. The Benefits refer to the old village Friendly Societies which were formed in the early 19th century. They met in the pub, being the largest building, paid a small subscription to a fund which was used to help people off work because of illness, the usual amount being one shilling and sixpence a week. The fund also helped with hardship in old age and also with burial costs. The Brass was the club emblem, a wonderful piece, usually depicting the name of the pub somewhere in the design. Thus we had The Queen's Arms from Priddy and a sword blade from Wells. Some clubs had banners with the emblem on the top and these were carried with great pride on the annual Girtest, Grandest Day, a holiday where all villagers “walked”, feasted and played games. In the women's race it was not unknown for some to loosen their stays in order to run faster!

Clubs had strict rules – one being expulsion for fornication and another being fines for anyone cracking nuts or playing shove ha'penny in church! Inevitably the movement grew and bigger Societies such as The Foresters and Oddfellows saw the end of the village clubs. Eventually universal sick benefit was introduced by the Government, first by Lloyd George and then Aneurin Bevan who was the architect of the N.H.S.

Mr Hoyland was thanked by Elizabeth Rennie who said it had been one of the most amusing and informative talks and in this she was joined by all present.

The competition for a brass object was won by Jill, with Elizabeth second and Pauline J. third.

Joan Hill

Lay Pastoral Assistants. Who are they and what do they do?

Just over a year ago nine of us from the congregation in Wells and Wookey Hole were commissioned as Lay Pastoral Assistants. We are volunteers actively involved in the work of pastoral care in our two linked parishes. So far this has included keeping in touch with families whose children have been baptised, offering support to those who have been bereaved, or are sick, in hospital or housebound. Before becoming commissioned we met together regularly for training sessions. One of the key lessons we learned was the importance of listening, really listening. Our aim is to hear what is being said to us, and with the help of God's love, respond in the best way we can. Following the call to love our neighbours as ourselves is something that many of us do in our daily lives. As Lay Pastoral Assistants we are able to put this into practice with more neighbours than we would otherwise have the opportunity to meet. We work closely with our vicar Alastair, Elizabeth our curate, and Reader Alistair Glanville who give us invaluable support and advice.

(continued)

If you or someone you know might like a visit from one of the LPA team, contact Patsy Barrow via the Parish Office on 676906.

Julia Scarth

So, what is exactly IS a rural or area dean?

If a Church of England diocese is a business and its bishop is the managing director, an archdeacon is the head of a division and a rural dean manages a department: not quite an accurate description but not a bad comparison. When the call centre cannot answer your problem and you ask to speak to a manager, the next voice you hear is probably the equivalent of the rural dean.

Another way to look at it is to see the rural dean, often known as the area dean, as the senior vicar in a large group of churches and parishes. Such a group, maybe a couple of dozen parishes, is a deanery. The rural or area dean chairs all the clergy of the area when they come together with lay people elected by each parish in a council called the deanery synod.

Synods are the Church's equivalent of Parliament (General Synod), County Councils (Diocesan Synod) and local councils (Deanery Synod), where both spiritual and administrative matters can be discussed democratically and planning and policy shaped.

Rural dean is, in fact, an ancient office with certain specified responsibilities: the incongruity of a priest in the middle of a city being called a rural dean led to many now being called area deans. In many instances, the duties of rural dean are discharged by a vicar as a temporary addition to his or her responsibilities, in return for a small honorarium. Rather than seeing the rural dean as the line manager for other vicars, therefore, the relationship is nearer to that of the Archbishop of Canterbury with other bishops: not the boss but first among equals.

As an officer of the bishop the rural dean's key roles include looking after parishes that are between vicars, ensuring everything keeps going and helping in the process of finding a new vicar; chairing meetings of all the clergy within the deanery; co-chairing, with an elected layperson, meetings of the deanery synod; and carrying out visitations and inspections on behalf of the archdeacon to ensure the good order of the fabric and the general welfare of parishes.

It's not all about admin, however. Being the priest of a parish is not always as quiet and calm as you might think. Clergy can be affected by pressure just like anyone else and rural deans are expected to care for the clergy of their deanery as well as for the parishes. They listen to vicar's problems, as well as those of parishioners, and help in whatever way they can.

And then they make sure that communication between the parishes and the bishop is working. They pass on messages from the bishop and send back responses, as well as making sure that the bishop hears of any problems in the parishes.

So, you might see rural and area deans as a cross between council chair, line manager and agony aunt..

Intimations of Mortality?

I am ready to meet my maker. Whether my Maker is prepared for the ordeal of meeting me is another matter.
Winston Churchill, on his 75th birthday

“**Lexophile**” is a word used to describe those that have a love for words, such as “you can tune a piano, but you can’t tunafish”, or “to write with a broken pencil is pointless.” A competition to see who can come up with the best **lexophillics** is held every year in an undisclosed location.

- .. When fish are in schools, they sometimes take debate.
- .. A thief who stole a calendar got twelve months.
- .. When the smog lifts in Los Angeles U. C. L. A.
- .. The batteries were given out free of charge.
- .. A dentist and a manicurist married. They fought tooth and nail.
- .. A will is a dead giveaway.
- .. With her marriage, she got a new name and a dress.
- .. A boiled egg is hard to beat.
- .. When you’ve seen one shopping center you’ve seen a mall.
- .. Police were called to a day care center where a three-year-old was resisting a rest.
- .. Did you hear about the fellow whose whole left side was cut off? He’s all right now.
- .. A bicycle can’t stand alone; it is two tired.
- .. When a clock is hungry it goes back four seconds.
- .. The guy who fell onto an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.
- .. He had a photographic memory which was never developed.
- .. When she saw her first strands of grey hair she thought she’d dye.
- .. Acupuncture is a jab well done. That’s the point of it.

And this year’s winning submission:

- .. Those who get too big for their pants will be exposed in the end.

Who are you really talking to?

In the early 1950s a well-known department store in Birmingham wanted to extend its premises. Close by this department store in Birmingham was an ideal site. But there was a problem: it belonged to the Quakers, whose Meeting House had been there for well over two hundred years.

Still, why should a bunch of Quakers stand in the way of commerce?

So, the department store wrote to the Quakers, offering to buy the site. Very grandly, they said, “We will give you a very good price for the land. In fact, we’ll send you a blank cheque. Please fill in whatever sum of money you think appropriate and we will honour it.”

Then they sat back and waited.

Weeks passed. Finally a letter arrived from the Quakers. It thanked the department store for their generous offer but declined to accept it. “Our Meeting House has been here for almost two hundred and fifty years,” they explained, “much longer than your store. We have no wish to sell our property. However, if YOU would agree to sell YOUR site to us, we are very interested in buying it. We will give you a very good price for it. Just state your selling price and we will honour it.”

The letter was signed ‘Cadburys.’

The department store thought they were dealing with a small, meek congregation of Quakers. Instead they were dealing with the Cadburys’ empire. Cadburys could have bought the department store twenty times over!

Sometimes life gives us hard knocks. Problems mount up and threaten to overwhelm us. We can feel alone and very vulnerable, very weak. But we can take heart in remembering that we are never alone. God has not forgotten us. Only our dimness of vision prevents us from seeing his great presence and power and provision. We do not need to fear, but to trust God. He is bigger and more powerful than anything which tries to overwhelm us.

Whatever problems 2014 throws at us, remember, we’ve got ‘Cadburys’ on our side.

Time enough

Let those who thoughtfully consider the brevity of life remember the length of eternity. - Bishop Thomas Ken

Mom’s American Baking Powder Biscuits

She starts by saying ‘A batch of baking powder biscuits is really easy. DON’T PANIC!’

Preheat oven to 200° C

Grease 8” x 8” baking pan

Just mix 2 cups (260g) flour, ½ teaspoon salt, and 2 teaspoons baking powder in a bowl. Stir well.

Then add 2 tablespoons margarine (or butter) and mix it with your fingers very well. Then stir in milk, about 1 to 1½ cups (8 to 12 fl oz) until sticky and it will almost pour.

Turn out onto floured surface*, sprinkle a little flour over the top so it won’t be sticky and cut out with a biscuit cutter or a glass dipped in flour. Bake in a preheated oven at 200° C for 20 minutes or until they sound hollow when tapped. Only 30 minutes from thought to table!

* This floured surface can be greaseproof paper which can be wrapped up and thrown away when finished, making clean-up a breeze.

These biscuits are very versatile: they can be used like Yorkshire pudding for gravy, especially nice with chicken. They can be the topping for meat casseroles to make savoury pies. They can be used as the bread in strawberry shortcake with a little sugar added to the batter and they can be a simple pudding served with maple syrup or honey poured over them. Best of all, they can be eaten warm from the oven with butter melted on them. Very comforting in cold weather or when you’re feeling poorly. Also good for impressing your mother-in-law.

Church speak

CHOIR: A group of people whose singing allows the rest of the congregation to lip-sync.

HYMN: A song of praise usually sung in a key two octaves higher than that of the congregation's range.

RECESSIONAL HYMN: The last song at Mass, often sung a little more quietly, since most of the people have already left.

JESUITS: An order of priests known for their ability to find colleges with good basketball teams.

JUSTICE: When your children grow up and have children of their own.

KYRIE ELEISON: The only Greek words that most Catholics can recognise besides gyros and baklava.

Talking theologically...

Jesus asked his disciples who men said that he was. And his disciples answered him: "Master, thou art the supreme eschatological manifestation of omnipotent ecclesiastical authority, the absolute, divine, sacerdotal monarch."

And Jesus said, "er - What?"

On when the vicar lands in hospital

The Rectory
St. James the Least

My dear Nephew Darren

Thank you for visiting me in hospital – although next time, should you once again kindly bring me a bottle of orange juice, would you please empty it at home and re-fill it with gin and tonic. While I know you had dashed from taking a primary school assembly, that still did not excuse you beginning your bedside prayer by telling me to sit up straight, close my eyes and put my hands together.



To fall on ice and break a leg was careless; to do so on the afternoon before a difficult church council meeting has been judged deliberate. After falling in the road and being unable to get up, it was remarkable how many parishioners formed a circle to watch; the magazine editor even had the cheek to take photos for the cover of next month's magazine, although I did draw the line when she suggested I was dragged across the pavement to where the light was better.

As I lay there, immobile, discussion started about who should chair that evening's meeting, whose responsibility it would be to arrange cover for that Sunday's Services – someone even had the gall to wonder if I should be asked to pay for their help, since I was the one who chose to fall over.

I felt obliged to suggest it may be helpful if someone called an ambulance, which someone reluctantly did, while others sympathetically asked me if I never got mobile again, which nursing home I would like to be placed in. I was tempted to

suggest whether they should hold a collection to pay for having me put down. Miss X regarded it as her Christian duty to force a cup of sweet tea on me; I am sure her solution to news of an imminent nuclear strike, meteorite collision, or the arrival of bubonic plague, would be to put the kettle on.

As it happened, one of the ambulance men lives in the village and saw it as the perfect opportunity, while they were placing me on a stretcher, to ask how he went about booking a baptism and seemed mildly disappointed that I didn't happen to have my diary to hand.

Now I have nowhere to hide for the next few weeks, people have realised they know where I am and that I can't get away from them. There have therefore been endless visits and after a brief question about how I am, by which time it is obvious they have no interest in my answer, they launch into questions about the flower rota, who chooses the hymns in my absence and where to get Communion wine.

Should you visit again, would you please bring information about hospitals in another county – possibly even on another continent.

Your loving uncle,
Eustace

What you have in common with a woodcarving

Woodcarving isn't as straightforward as it seems. You draw a plan of what you want to carve, and only when you've got that right do you start to start to shape your piece of wood.

The carver works his block with his plan alongside it. He cuts those bits of wood away that he doesn't want, and shapes what's left until it ever more closely resembles that original plan. Only when the design on the wood and the paper plan are identical has the carver finished his job. He's then made exactly what he'd hoped for, while working all along from that original plan.

It's the same for our lives. God is the master carpenter. As we go through life, God shapes us, cutting away those bits of us that he doesn't want and which would spoil what he wants us to look like: Jesus.



But there's one big difference between a human being and a block of wood. A block of wood has to sit impassively on the carver's bench while he works at it. The wood cannot help the process along and has no idea what's happening to it.

God very much hopes that we'll help him in the process of being shaped into his pattern. That's why we read the Bible and worship and pray: only when we have some idea of what he wants us to be can we cooperate in the process. However often we get it wrong and fail, there's one promise we have. God will never give up on us, until he's shaped us into exactly what he's planned for us to be all along.

Wells First World War Exhibition



“Wells Remembers”

What are we trying to do ?

The objective is to create an exhibition and programme of events which achieve three things:

(i) marks the service and sacrifice of combatants and those left behind and allows individuals to reflect on and commemorate this sacrifice;

(ii) tells a number of stories about Wells, nearby villages and their residents during the war in a way that engages the audience so that they learn more about a war which had such an impact on Wells and surrounding communities; and

(iii) involves the present-day community in sharing stories and artefacts from their families, exploring how we remember the events and people of 100 years ago.

The project will include:

- a four-year exhibition at the museum, with displays changing on an annual basis to reflect the events of 100 years ago;
- the www.wellsremembers.com website created to share the materials and stories with a wider audience - and allow people to contribute their own thoughts and images; and
- a programme of community events and a book collecting the stories, research and reflections of the communities of Wells and surrounding villages.

Partners

The project is being coordinated by a partnership including The Blue School and Wells Cathedral School, Wells Cathedral, Wells City Archives, the Wells Branch of the Royal British Legion and the Wells and Mendip Museum. We hope to coordinate the programme of community events staged by these organisations with other local events.

Pupils from the two secondary schools will be involved in the design and construction of the exhibition, as well contributing to the content. Both schools will be taking pupils on an annual visit to the battlefields of France and Flanders in February of each year.

The exhibition will open in the Summer of 2014.

Contact: community@wellsmuseum.org.uk

Notes from the PCC meeting on 14th January 2014

Reredos Project: Jonathan Saunders brought the PCC up to date with progress on securing funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund et al. The PCC agreed that an approach should be made to the DAC for informal advice.

Young People and Families: Jane Tibbs, Diocesan Advisor on Children and Young Families, outlined several options for the recruiting of a part-time worker to develop this important aspect of parish work. It could link our schools in with church activities and worship, and could draw in families moving into the new estates being built

around Wells. She recommended the formation of a small group, and would help to set it up.

Trinity Chapel Development: Graham has posted the 28-day notices, and will present the petition afterwards; he has also applied to Viridor for a grant to cover the £20,000 shortfall caused by the DBF's reduction to £30,000 from their earlier promise of £50,000.

St Cuthbert's Bells: Further problems with the bells and clock have arisen. The PCC approved a proposal to approach the Diocesan Change Ringers seeking a grant of, say, £200; this would reduce the net cost to the church to about £900 .

Christmas Tree Festival: Lots of positive comments, and Graham was thanked for all his work on it. With fewer trees and relatively poor level of donations to the various charities, Graham felt that it was time to devise an alternative event for Christmas 2014.

Finance: As Vernon still needed vital final information, presentation of the 2013 full year accounts was deferred to the Standing Committee meeting on 11th February.

Vicar's Report: Jennifer Cole will be licensed by the Archdeacon on 23rd February, after which she will be available—when not running training courses—to carry out weddings, baptisms and funerals. The augmented choir had contributed much to the Christmas services; Peter Kingston is working to bring in additional singers for the third Sunday communion service each month, also for evensong on a more regular basis. Chill Group—The PCC approved the following off-premises activities for insurance purposes: 17th January—Ready, Steady, Cook. 7th February—Games. 7th March—Skittles at the Sherston. Early April—packing Rotary Water Survival Boxes at Radstock. 9th May—Easter Egg Hunt at Alistair Glanville's.

Curate's Report: CTWA—as last year, a Pentecost service will be arranged for 8th June, either in the Cathedral or in St Cuthbert's at 11am; the customary Good Friday procession will follow a service at St Cuthbert's. Children's work—the young families which usually attend the All Age services came to the Epiphany service, at which Chill Group members acquitted themselves well; Elizabeth described the collective worship at the Infants' School and development of the R.E. curriculum at the Junior School. Weddings—a day for wedding preparation was to be held at St Thomas' on 18th January.

Almshouses—Elizabeth outlined the new management structure, Thursday morning communion service at Bubwith Chapel, and eligibility for vacancies.

Churchwardens' Report: The PCC authorised expenditure for reglazing the outside notice board. A vacancy for a cleaner would be advertised, following the preparation of a job description.

Committees: Market day lunches would restart on Wednesday 1st February; the Health & Hygiene course would be held on Monday 20th January.

Fair Trade—support for the monthly Traidcraft stall had diminished, perhaps because Fair Trade foods can be bought in almost every supermarket* and shop now. The future of the monthly stall was now in question. Vera drew attention to a stall and talk to be held in St Cuthbert's on Wednesday 26th February, as part of Fair Trade Fortnight.

☒ (though they don't always treat their suppliers fairly: see page 10) - Ed.

Ending of life issues

There has been a huge amount of publicity this week over the Coronation Street storyline of someone deciding to take their own life in the face of terminal illness—and the devastating emotional impact this action can have on those around.

It has led to discussions in church and, I'm told, cafes and other places around Wells. It has also had an emotional impact on those who have been touched by such events in their own or their families' lives.

If you, or someone you talk with or know, have been emotionally stirred up by this do remember that the Samaritans are always there to listen to anyone day or night. They are simply there to listen and support—and are very good at it. Their phone number is 08457 90 90 90 (one number nationally these days) or you can have an email discussion by emailing jo@samaritans.org. And of course there are many others around who are willing to listen in the church family and the wider community in Wells.

Alastair

Trinity Chapel update

You may have noticed that the plans for the Trinity Chapel are currently being displayed on the noticeboard at the back of the church near the coffee hatch. Thanks to a huge lot of online and on-paper work by Graham Barrow, and help and guidance from Fay Wilson-Rudd, a key application for grant aid for the project has gone in this week to Taunton by car, and we await a decision in a few weeks' time.

Our original hope of getting the work done in the 'quiet spell' of Christmas to Easter has evaporated, and it now looks likely that the work will have to be done probably in two phases between Easter and the end of August. Then we will have a distinct area, separately lit and heated, available for flexible use as a quiet space, place for mid-week and other small services, or groups meeting for prayer, discussion and so on.

Alastair

Clergy conference

A young curate went to a conference at which most of the gathering consisted of bishops, archdeacons and high officials of the Church. The weather was very cold and it was natural perhaps that the older clergy should cluster around the cheerful fire in the dining room as often as possible.

The curate thought that it was about time he did something about this, so next morning he said in a loud voice: "I had a strange dream last night, I dreamt I had died and gone to hell". After a few moments of dead silence one of the number said "and what did you find there?"

"Just the same as here," was the reply. "I couldn't get near the fire for bishops."

A way with words... one liners that say it all

Shotgun wedding: A case of wife or death.

A man needs a mistress just to break the monogamy.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.

From the Registers 2014

FUNERALS & MEMORIAL SERVICES

2nd January

7th January

10th January

31st January

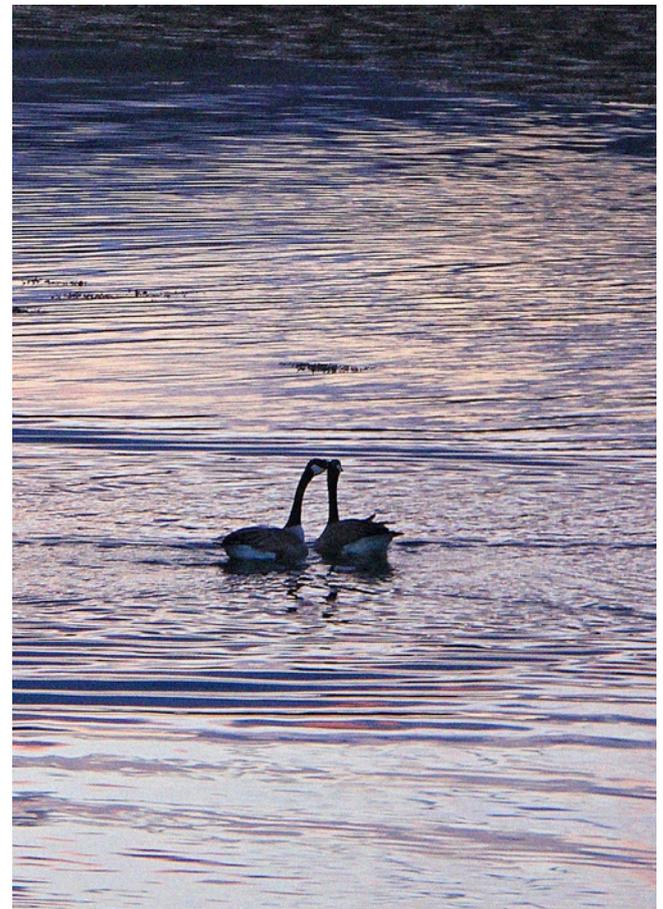
Dennis Trebble

Phoebe Jean Thompson

George Albert Parsons

Mervyn Keast

Sheila Jenkins



Love seeketh not itself to please,
Nor for itself hath any care,
But for another gives its ease,
And builds a Heaven in Hell's despair.

William Blake