

PARISH NEWS

St Cuthbert, Wells *with* St Mary Magdalene, Wookey Hole
Linked with the parish of West Livingstone, Zambia

March 2016

*...and a sword will
pierce your own
soul, too*

Luke 2:35



Let's Spring Clean our Lives **by Alistair Glanville**

As I write this the sun is shining, the spring flowers are bursting into flower and the birds are going round in pairs collecting building material for their nests. I think spring is one of my favourite times of the year. The days are getting longer and after the dreariness of winter where everything looks tired and dead now is the time of new life and hope.

It's like our church life. We are now in the period of Lent when we remember Jesu's time in the wilderness while He tried to sort out what path his ministry was to take. It is a time of reflection also for us when we examine our own relationship with God. For some it will be a period of denial and for others a time to give more of themselves. Bishop Ruth said that before she became a Bishop she thought that giving up meetings for Lent was a good idea. I think she had her tongue in her cheek! But she may have a point. Rather than giving up chocolate or booze it might be better to declutter our lives and give up everything that gets in the way of our relationship with God and with our neighbours. Going to meetings and being "busy" can be ways of cutting ourselves off from the real reason for living and get in the way of real life. We all know people who are always too busy to talk or to just socialise and yet by having time for other people we are following the example of the God we profess to follow. Jesus walked through the countryside and talked with and listened to the people He met. Do you remember Martha and Mary? Mary sitting at

Jesu's feet listening while Martha made sure that everyone knew how hardworking she was and what a wonderful job she made of it. Both had their place but Martha didn't realise what a short time they would have with Jesus and that bread and cheese shared with love was better than a full scale dinner served with nerves and anger.

We must make sure that we get our priorities right so that at the end of Lent we can join in the joyful celebration of Jesus' defeat of death and the opening up of the gates of Heaven to each of us.

Have a good Lent and a joyful and happy Easter.

Alistair

Alastair's Retirement

As many of you know by now, I became an Old Age Pensioner at the end of January and am working towards my retirement.

My last working Sunday will be Sunday 8th May – when I will be taking the 10am service at St Cuthbert's.

So my last Sunday service at St Mary Magdalene will be the previous Sunday, 1st May at the 11am communion there.

Alastair

Discover more about the Holy Land

Alastair is showing pictures from his various Pilgrimages to the Holy Land on three Saturday mornings during Lent, and talking about the geographical and historical context of Jesus's life and ministry.

For some this might be a trip down memory lane, for others it might be a chance to broaden understanding of Jesus and his disciples as Jews in the world of the first Century, as well as just a little about the contemporary situation.

The sessions last about 50 minutes, on Saturday mornings starting 10.30am

(Saturday 27th February – Jesus's Galilean Ministry)

Saturday 12th March – Jesus and Jerusalem then and now

Everyone welcome!

St Cuthbert's Ladies' Group

We enjoyed seeing you at our Annual Dinner on the 16th, when programmes for 2016/17 were distributed.

On March 15th Pam Grottick will be telling us about her work as Chaplain to the Deaf.

Do come and join us. Newcomers are welcome.

Maureen Simon

CTWA calendar for February & March

February 2016

2nd Tues.	7.30pm	United Church, Wells	Forum Meeting
15th Mon.	12.00 - 1.30	Seager Hall, Wells	Lent lunch
17th Wed.	10.00am	Denning Room, WUC	Monthly informal prayers
21st Sun.	6.30pm	Henton	United service
22nd Mon.	12.00 - 1.30	Seager Hall, Wells	Lent lunch
29th Mon.	12.00 - 1.30	Seager Hall, Wells	Lent lunch

March 2016

4th Fri.	10.30am	United Church, Wells	Womens World day of Prayer service
7th Mon.	12.00 - 1.30	Seager Hall, Wells	Lent lunch
14th Mon.	12.00 - 1.30	Seager Hall, Wells	Lent lunch
16th Wed.	10.00am	Denning Room, WUC	Monthly informal prayers
25th Fri.	10.00am	St Cuthberts to Market Place	Good Friday Walk of Witness

Mary Martin

Update from the Welcoming Working Group

Encouraging and enabling the use of the Trinity Chapel as a place for quiet reflection and prayer has been our priority.

Prayer leaflets and cards will be available in the Chapel. Thanks to Ruth Harris for her design work and to Dominic Gwynne for producing a new prayer board. We were delighted to accept the offer of a votive candle stand in memory of Mervyn Salmon. This gift was made by his colleagues in the Glastonbury Male Voice Choir commemorating Mervyn's amazing service of 74 years as a member of St Cuthbert's choir. We plan to invite the Glastonbury choir to a dedication service in the near future.

A start has been made on cleaning and refurbishing the church porch. We are awaiting a lull in the rain and some frost free weather so that repairs can be made to the plaster work. We have a band of trusty volunteers ready to paint once the new plaster has dried out. Existing notices and the old map will be removed and replaced with a new sign inviting visitors to step inside our wonderful church.

Leaflets guiding visitors around the church and information about key features are being prepared. We plan to have these available in a variety of languages.

Underpinning everything is the welcome that we, the church family, extend to our visitors. Walking into a church for perhaps the first time can be daunting. We want our guests to feel as welcome as they would if we invited them into our homes. It's a difficult balance to achieve: if we are too overwhelming, people may be scared away. We need to recognise and celebrate the Ministry carried out by our greeters and sidespeople and ensure that they are trained and supported to carry out this vital role. Jennifer Cole has offered to run a training session for all our sidespeople which will hopefully take place before Easter.

Graham Barrow_

Lay Pastoral Assistants

The Team are happy to visit anyone in the Benefice who is lonely, unwell or bereaved.

Please contact us via St Cuthbert's Parish Office, telephone 01749 676906

Patsy Barrow

Mothering Sunday

Bishop Peter reminded us last month of the hope we have in the God of promises as we look to uncertain futures. We can trust God to remain faithful and immovable whatever our circumstances. Easter has always been a moveable feast although the Archbishop is now taking soundings from other church leaders to see whether we can 'fix a date' for Easter. I wonder how easy that will be!

We are now part way through Lent and the first Sunday of **this** March is Mothering Sunday which is celebrated on the fourth Sunday of Lent. This was traditionally the day when people would gather to worship, to 'rejoice' ('laetare'), at their 'mother' church, a large local church or often the Cathedral. As this practice developed so those in service would have the opportunity for a short holiday, to return to their homes, to their mothers, often bringing small presents or gifts. It was a welcome moment of festivity in the season of abstinence and austerity. A sign of things to come...

However for some of us, Mothering Sunday can be the most painful day of the year as we remember the loss of a loving parent, whether known or not; or the bereavement of never having been able to be a parent oneself; or the death of a child we have loved and longed for. It can mean that some find it too difficult to be in church that week. Perhaps as we approach Good Friday it gives us a small insight of what it might mean to have been Mary watching her Son die on that cross.

So how about a different take on Mothering Sunday this year? We might focus on remembering those who have 'given birth' to us by inspiring our faith or where we ourselves have played a part in someone else's discovery of Jesus as a friend and Saviour. Who might you remember, give thanks for and pray for?

+ Ruth Taunton

THE FRIENDS OF MENDIP HOSPITAL CEMETERY

REG. CHARITY NO 1085981
www.mendiphospitalcemetery.org.uk

Table top sale

SATURDAY 5th MARCH

St Thomas Church Hall: 9.30 am—12 noon

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AGM: FRIDAY 11th MARCH

St Thomas Church Hall: 7.30pm

Wells Lent egg trail

It started on Ash Wednesday 10th February at 09:00, and runs until Good Friday 25th March at 17:00

There's still time to join the fun!

Track down the 40 knitted eggs with their code words that are hidden amongst the shops in Wells for a chance to win a prize!

Collect your free leaflet to take part from The Wells and Mendip Museum on Cathedral Green.

For more information contact Jane Tibbs on 01749 685121

FairTrade Fortnight

Runs from Leap Year Day 29th February to 13th March.

Look out also for the **Real Easter Egg** containing a copy of the Easter story, on sale with other high quality Fair Trade goods at church Traidcraft stalls and various shops around Wells.

FAIRTRADE FORTNIGHT 2016

A TEA PARTY

SATURDAY 5th MARCH

SEAGER HALL

UNION STREET, WELLS

2pm to 4pm

- Stalls of Fairtrade goods
- An informal Q&A session on Fairtrade
- Delicious Fairtrade cakes and drinks
- Live music from a string trio
- Fairtrade literature

FREE ENTRY ALL ARE WELCOME

WELLS FAIRTRADE CITY GROUP : fairtradewells@yahoo.com
 F AIRTRADE FOUNDATION : www.fairtrade.org.uk

"It continues to be a scandal that the people who grow the food we take for granted can't always feed their own families. We can support farmers and workers to put food on the table for their families by harnessing the power of Fairtrade."

Fairtrade Foundation

Mothering Sunday Stall

There will be a Traidcraft stall in St Cuthbert's after the Mothering Sunday all-age service. Come and support our young people: profits go to help the growers of the wide range of good quality products on sale.

CHRISTIAN AID LENT LUNCHES

These are taking place in the Seager Hall on Mondays from 15th February until 14th March. Do come – the soups are always splendid (and you get refills!), and with baguette and butter and tea or coffee, it's a bargain at £3.50! There are sometimes 'bring and buy' or cake stalls too.

St Cuthbert's is responsible for providing soup for **Monday 14th March**. I'm hoping that some of you will be kind enough to make soup. We need several wonderful volunteers to provide about 4 pints of their favourite vegetable soup. Last year's soups were all delicious!

We also need some help on the day from 10.00 am, please.

There is a notice at the back of the church. Please do sign up.

Antonia Gwynn

GIVING UP SOMETHING FOR LENT?

WHY NOT COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS INSTEAD....

A Christian Aid idea for Lent.

This Lent, why not reflect each day on the blessings in our lives and join others in giving thanks. Be inspired by daily opportunities to give, act and pray for communities in need. Enjoy Count Your Blessings as a personal journey or share it with family, friends or your church.

The Count your Blessings programme for Lent suggests areas of life in which we are blessed, such as food, education or water and an amount which might be donated to give thanks for our blessings.

For instance on Monday 22nd February we are asked to reflect on the fact that *'Enrolment in primary education in developing countries has reached 91% but a staggering 57 million children still remain out of school across the globe.'*

Give £1 for every family member who has completed secondary school.

Or on Monday 21st March *'Many people were poorly housed in Haiti even before the 2010 earthquake left 1.5 million homeless. Our partner is working hard to ensure that citizens know about their housing rights and how to demand these from their government. Give 30p for each room in your house or flat.'*

Obviously the programme can be adapted in any way you like, but if the idea appeals to you please do ask me for a leaflet. It would be more fun if several of us took part.

Antonia Gwynn

Snoring

A clergyman consulted his doctor about his wife's snoring. 'It has to STOP,' he insisted.

The doctor was intrigued: 'Does it really bother you that much?'

'Well, it's not just me,' explained the minister. 'She is bothering the whole congregation.'

Women's World Day of Prayer

This year the theme is Receive Children, Receive Me.

The service has been prepared by the women of Cuba. The service has been translated into more than 60 languages and will be taking place throughout the world during the 24 hours of March 4th. It will start while we are still asleep and the sun rises on Samoa with the first service. It then travels around the world taking place in 170 countries and islands until reaching the sunset in Samoa. There will be over 6000 services in the British Isles during the day. It is a continual wave of prayer somewhere in the world in many different languages but all using the same service and hymns.

Cuthbert's Coots 'n' Curlews

Duncock. Cormorant. Swans: mute. Geese: Canada. Ducks: tufted; mallard; pochard. Grebes: great crested. Wagtails: pied. Thrushes: blackbird; robin. Tits: blue. Rails: coot. Gulls: black-headed; lesser black-backed.

So you see, it was a somewhat modest list of birds that we saw (or heard) on our last trip to Chew Valley Lake. Nine of us cocked a snook at the rain on 2 February and set off into eventual glorious sunshine. In fact the sun reflecting on the choppy water was a distinct problem on the east side of the lake, but it was not in our nature to complain. At 10p per species, our standard rate, we raised £12.60 for Church funds.

A trip to Steart (on the coast, opposite Burnham) is planned for late March. Let one of us know if you are interested.

David Green, Pam Pearce

WOOKEY HOLE CINEMA CLUB FILMS

Wednesday 9th March

TANGERINES (15) War Drama

Set in the Apkhazeti region of Georgia in 1990, this is a very touching anti-war story about people finding themselves in the middle of someone else's war. "... tremendous storytelling: engaging, intelligent, and with some lovely touches." Peter Bradshaw, The Guardian



Come and join us at Wookey Hole Community Hall at the bottom of School Hill

Doors open 7pm, film starts 7.30pm. Tickets on the door £6, under 16's £3.

More info and a trailer at:

www.wookeholecinemaclub.weebly.com

Wookey Hole Letter

February is the month when the annual Children's Society lunch is held in Wells Town and when Wookey Hole support has always featured. This year's event was particularly successful and the organising committee are extremely grateful to all the Wookey Hole ladies who joined us and cooked delicious dishes, served, cleared and washed up or made generous financial contributions. I do not think the Assembly Room would have held another person and from the length of time everyone stayed they all seemed to enjoy a very good occasion. £1,210 was raised for the Children's Society which is one of the charities Wookey Hole supports.

As a little oasis in Lent we have to look forward to Mothering Sunday on March 6th when there will be a special service with Juliet's musicians, village choir and congregation participation. We are asked to bring a flower or banana (or both) so come and see what happens and, if you can, invite a child to join us as well.

Elizabeth Talbott

WOOKEY HOLE LADIES CLUB

Tuesday 2nd February was our first meeting of the new year. We were very pleased to welcome Jenny Lewis and Aileen for a craft afternoon. Both ladies are very enthusiastic about crafts but for some of us it was a new experience.

We had three choices one was to make paper rack hedgehogs from a paperback book, the second was origami fabric butterflies and the third was making flower corsages

from felt. There were some lovely offerings of flowers and butterflies and numerous hedgehogs for practical use. In the end everyone had a very pleasant afternoon and enjoyed the craft making session as well as catching up with friends they hadn't met with for a couple of months.

Edith thanked Jenny and Aileen for their time in preparing the bits and pieces as well as their patience in helping us to make our chosen craft.

Our next meeting is on Tuesday 1st March in the Wookey Hole Community Hall at 2.30 pm when the speaker will be Deanna Deburgh of Cocobella Chocolate.

Lyn Astle

February 2016 meeting of Wookey Hole WI

President Sue Harding had the sad duty, at our February meeting, of telling members of the sudden death of our member Pat Tew. We held a short silence, and signed a condolence card for her family.

We finalised plans for a Green Heart craft workshop and coffee morning to contribute to the Valentine's Day climate change initiative. Two of our other schemes have had to be postponed, the Scrabble lunch and the 69th Anniversary lunch, we plan to rearrange them soon.

Our speaker this month was Margaret Haslam, who told us of the years she and her husband ran the Miners Arms Restaurant on the Mendips. In 1974 they took over what had been a very low key business and, with no experience of the catering trade, turned it into a thriving enterprise. Cook it and they will come, and come they did, including the schoolboys eager for pocket money, who gathered buckets full of snails, long abandoned by the Romans, from the gaps in the drystone walls, to produce one of the signature dishes, snails cooked in butter and herbs. Not in garlic, as Margaret emphasised, though they employed a chef with the appropriate temperament rather than doing the cooking themselves. Many distinguished and famous people patronised the restaurant over the years, business people, politicians, film and television personalities as well as the more local members of the Waldegrave family and their guests. One memorable annual dinner, of the caving club, lasted for two and a half days, as the area was snowed in. The guests, in evening dress, were loaned all the sweaters on the premises, and spare beds and armchairs shared around. Luckily, being a restaurant, there was food enough available until rescue appeared in the shape of a farmer and a tractor. Rose thanked Margaret for her very interesting reminiscences.

Rose Docherty

Three anonymous quotations

Going to church doesn't make you a Christian any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.

Blessed are those who can give without remembering, and take without forgetting.

Let God's Word fill your mind, rule your heart and guide your tongue.

PCC PROFILES

ANNE BURCHELL

I'm sure that the words 'Wells St Cuthbert's' run through Anne like a stick of Brighton Rock. Her long connection with the church goes back to 1949 when Anne and her family moved to Cheddar Valley Buildings. These were Great Western Railway houses and her father, a Passenger Guard, had been transferred to Wells from Shepton Mallet. Anne and her younger sister Jean went to Central Junior School during the week, and to St Cuthbert's Sunday School on Sunday mornings. The Sunday School, run by Deaconess Dorothy, was held in the old St Cuthbert's Infant school building in St John's Road. Around twenty children attended to learn bible stories and colour for an hour. They then went on to Matins at the church – at least that's what they were meant to do! In time, Anne was confirmed by Bishop Bradfield in Wells Cathedral, and was also 'encouraged' by Deaconess Dorothy to take on responsibility for the toddlers and tinies in the Sunday School. The involvement with St Cuthbert's became a family affair when Anne's father started accompanying his wife and daughters to St Cuthbert's. He soon decided to be confirmed and then became first Sidesman and then Church Warden.

When she moved on to the Blue School, Anne went to girls' department in the Portway Annexe building. The boys' school was in what is now the Little Theatre and Anne still enjoys going to the theatre and remembering its former existence, particularly visiting the Headmaster's Office - now the ladies' loo! Leaving school at 15, Anne became a junior clerk at EMI where she spent 7½ years. During this time she studied shorthand and typing at evening classes, a commitment which paid off when she became a secretary at the Old Deanery: first to the Diocesan Secretary and then to the Director of housing and glebes.

The seven-year itch operated again and Anne moved on to Mendip District Council, first in the Wookey Hole Road building where she was in charge of the typing pool; and then at Shepton as Secretary to the Director of Environmental Health. Her last job before retirement in 1995 was as Secretary/PA to the Managing Director of Sheldon Jones Agriculture – some chap called Vernon Harding!

The closure of the railways in Wells had necessitated a move from the tied house and Anne and her parents moved to St Cuthbert's (those words again!) Avenue, where she has lived for 36 years. As Anne's parents grew older their health declined and she looked after them for several years, before her father died in 1993 and her mother in 1997.

Anne's roles and responsibilities at St. Cuthbert's have been many and various. She was persuaded by Sue Harding (those Hardings get everywhere!) to return to the Sunday School as Assistant. She also agreed to become the PCC Secretary 'for two years'. A vain hope - she remained secretary from 1963 until 2009 and has served

on the PCC for 53 years, including four years as Church Warden!

Her sister Jean lives very nearby and Anne is proud of her nephew, Jonathan and niece, Lisa. Jonathan is Deputy Head at Holy Trinity School in Yeovil and has recently moved to Sherborne where he is a Church Warden at the Abbey. Lisa lives near Keynsham, with her seven-year old daughter Isabella, and is a trained worker at a Pre-school playgroup. Family traditions of service to church and children live on in the next generation!

Antonia

Bird brains

Birds on the feeder

no sense of frugality
no storing against a winter's snow
no caring to avoid a neighbour's claw
no 'after you I'll take my turn'
no thought for tomorrow
no care about the debris
on the grass.

Blind hunger rules:

food should never be ignored
even by those who ate next door minutes ago
even though the meadow and the berried hedgerow
creak nearby with an alimentary weight.

Birds of small brain,

yet large enough to let their owners know
essential matters should not be deferred,
and problems grow if instincts go unheard:

fill the belly
find some warmth
flee the magpies and marauding cat
find a sympathetic mate
feathers in the nest
roost when tired
settle for that.

David Green



The vicar realised that deciphering and trying to make sense of esoteric texts was still an important part of the job

'Religious Studies' grows more popular

In 2015, six per cent of all students taking GCSEs – nearly 300,000 in total – took their GCSE in Religious Studies, or RS for short. It happens to be one of the more popular non-mandatory subjects. That number is 15 times the estimated number of young people aged 16 coming to a church in England on a Sunday (some 20,000 in total).

Likewise in 2015, some 26,000 students took RS for their A Level, (or 3% of all A Level students. The percentages taking these public RS exams have virtually tripled in the last 20 years, both for GCSE and A Level (from 110,000 to 300,000 for GCSEs and 9,000 to 26,000 for A Levels). So RS is definitely becoming a more popular option!

Bishop of Leeds speaks in House of Lords on flood management

Bishop Nick Baines led a recent debate in the House of Lords on the government's long-term strategy for flood management. He asked how Her Majesty's Government intended to review their long-term strategy for flood management, particularly in rural areas that do not qualify for large-scale flood defences

"It is important to note the destructiveness of recent flooding, given that the news agenda moves on very quickly and communities that found themselves at the heart of a sympathetic nation quickly feel themselves to be forgotten. For some of the communities in my own diocese the recent floods come in the wake (almost literally) of other occurrences in recent years, and for them the need for longer-term and more joined-up measures is obvious."

Apps for Worship

If you have a smart phone or tablet computer, you may be interested in downloading one or both of these two apps, available on both iOS and Android platforms. **Sunday Worship** gives access to each Sunday's Bible readings, collects and post communion prayers. **Daily Prayer** gives access to the complete daily services for Morning Prayer, Evening Prayer and Night Prayer (excluding Sundays). Both apps are free to download, but there is a small annual charge of £1.49p for continuing access to **Sunday Worship** after an initial trial period.

Go to the Church of England website for full details, and search for **apps for worship**.



*My sermon today comes from
Apps Chapter 1 beginning at verse 2...*

On the art of drinking well

The Rectory

St. James the Least of All



My dear Nephew Darren

You closed your last letter with the remark that it was time to retire to bed with a cup of cocoa. That may be all very well for the pious intensity of a theological college - although a stiff whisky was always acceptable in my day - but it is not a style to continue once in the parish. I do feel obliged to give you a few hints about what should and should not be drunk in public as a parish priest.

Morning visits are to be discouraged, but if one is unavoidable, and you are invited to have a drink, then it has to be coffee. It is the only time of day when a mug is acceptable - provided, of course, that it is china. In the afternoons one changes to tea, but only from cups. Blended varieties may be all very well for Curates in their first year, but it should be Darjeeling for an incumbent. Fruit teas are for Quakers only.

If an inappropriate vessel is offered, then the drink should be accepted, but left untouched. Since the visit will be discussed in the finest detail throughout the parish the moment you have left, your host will soon learn why and not make the same error a second time. It is for the same reason that if you ever want to circulate a piece of news round the parish as quickly as possible, never put it in the parish magazine, just mention it casually during one of your visits. Everyone will know by tea time.

Alcoholic drinks must be carefully judged. A sherry - dry, naturally - is probably best if you are invited to lunch. In the early evening a gin and tonic would be the drink of choice. To ask for whisky would indicate that you are about to go over to Rome, and a mineral water that you have your roots in non-conformity. Beer is never drunk in someone's house unless you suffer from some personal tragedy, such as being the diocesan youth chaplain.

However an occasional beer in the pub with the bell-ringers (who will be real ale fanatics to a man) or after choir practice - which seems to be the real purpose of holding practices anyway - or as a treat for the sacristan, will show you are a man of the people. It is some years since I visited the pub.

Understanding wine should be taught at every theological college as an essential part of the ministry. Develop a taste for claret, dear boy, and you will be starting your journey towards high office.

And perhaps you should give that tin of cocoa to the vergers.

Your loving uncle,

Eustace



HOLY WEEK

Holy Week is the week before Easter Day; it starts with Palm Sunday which is on 20th March this year. Palm Sunday is when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey.



The Thursday of Holy Week is called Maundy Thursday which is named for the words that Jesus used at his last meal with the disciples, what we now call the Last Supper. The Latin words are 'Mandatum novum da vobis' – a new commandment I give you'. Do you know what that commandment is? You can read the whole account in St John's Gospel, chapter 13.

Then comes Good Friday - a lot of people can't see why a day that commemorates the trial and crucifixion of Jesus could be called 'good'. It was a black day but Christians know that without what happened that Friday there would be no Easter. Without the death of our Lord there would have been no empty tomb on Easter Day, no glorious Resurrection.

HOT CROSS BUNS

One of the pleasures of Easter is eating hot cross buns. Like most things they cost more now than they did in this old rhyme...

Hot Cross Buns,
Hot Cross Buns,
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot Cross Buns.
If you have no daughters,
Give them to your sons,
One a penny, two a penny,
Hot Cross Buns.



If you have some time to spare, see how many words you can make from the letters in the words HOT CROSS BUNS. Words of at least 3 letters, no plurals, proper names or foreign words.

What do you get when you pour boiling water down a rabbit hole?

A hot cross bunny.

Why couldn't the rabbit fly home for Easter?

He didn't have the hare fare.

Fletcher House

An hour every Thursday evening is a very special time for some of us – Alistair Glanville, Bill Oke and the Vicar form the team which I joined in Autumn 2015, two of us visiting each week. It is even more special to the twelve or so residents who gather in a small lounge for the Communion Service. They are often awaiting us and they clearly find it very helpful. The Staff to are always very supportive.

It is interesting to note their choices of hymns – yes we do sing, minus a music maker – may undoubtedly remind them of past years. It is encouraging to see the residents joining in with most parts of the service. Their actions speak of past experiences in church life, even for one or two who are slightly mentally or physically incapacitated. There is joy in their eyes as they receive the bread and wine and remember their Lord. The moment of deep silence at the close of the Communion is very real; a challenge to us who may tend to become used to the service.

We value your prayers for us all and the lives of staff and residents at Fletcher House.

Mary Thorne

Reaching the Unreached

In January we visited this truly inspirational charity in Tamil Nadu, South India, which the congregation of Ss Joseph & Teresa have supported for over 30 years. We helped their Year 11 girls with conversational English and experienced a 4 day celebration of Pongal, the rice harvest festival which is celebrated with music and dance and various fun competitions. Bob has produced a short video which gives a feeling of the joy and skill and sheer exuberance of the children.

RTU brings hope and joy to literally thousands of people in poor areas of rural south India. Joy shines out of every face, as we saw in the Villages we visited. RTU provides education, health care, houses, water, food, pensions, but above all, love.

Please come to our evening on Monday 7th March at 7.00pm to hear and see more. We will be providing Indian nibbles, wine and drinks. We will also have some hand-made greeting cards and hand-woven items from RTU to buy and lots of information about how to sponsor a child or teenager or pensioner.

Bob & Sharon Haigh



DIARY FOR MARCH 2016

PARISH NEWS March 2016

Wednesday	2	10.00 am	Holy Communion (St Cuthbert)
		12 noon	Market Day Lunch
Thursday	3	9.30 am	Meditation Group (Trinity Chapel)
		11.00 am	Holy Communion (Bubwith House)
Friday	4	9.30 - 11 am	LPA Training in the Trinity Chapel
		10.30 am	Women's World Day of Prayer at the United Church, Union Street
Sunday	6		Mothering Sunday
		8.00 am	1662 Holy Communion at St Cuthbert
		10.00 am	All Age Communion (St Cuthbert)
		11.00 am	Parish Communion (Wookey Hole)
		12 noon	Baptism of Logan Arbuckle at St Cuthbert
Monday	7	10.00 am	'Little Saints' Toddlers' Group (St C)
		12 noon	Lent Lunch at the Seager Hall
			Easter Activity planning in the Trinity Chapel
Tuesday	8	7.00 pm	St Cuthbert PCC
Wednesday	9	10.00 am	Holy Communion (St Cuthbert)
		12 noon	Market Day Lunch
Thursday	10	11.00 am	Holy Communion (Bubwith House)
Saturday	12	10.30 am	Holy Land Pictures and Talk in the Trinity Chapel
Sunday	13		Passion Sunday
		10.00 am	Parish Communion (St Cuthbert)
		11.00 am	Parish Communion (Wookey Hole)
		4.00 pm	Informal Service at Wookey Hole
Monday	14	10.00 am	'Little Saints' Toddlers' Group
		12 noon	Lent Lunch at Seager Hall
Tuesday	15	7.30 pm	Ladies' Group at the Lawrence Centre
Wednesday	16	10.00 am	Holy Communion (St Cuthbert)
		12 noon	Market Day Lunch (St Cuthbert)
Thursday	17	9.30 am	Meditation Group (Trinity Chapel)
		11.00 am	Holy Communion (Bubwith House)
Saturday	19	7.30 pm	Wells Cathedral School Concert (St C)
Sunday	20		Palm Sunday
		10.00 am	Parish Communion with Palm
			Procession and Dramatised Gospel (St Cuthbert)
		11.00 am	Morning Prayer (Wookey Hole)
		12 noon	Baptism of Marcel Denis at St Cuthbert
		4.00 pm	Together@4 at St Cuthbert
Monday	21	10.00 am	'Little Saints' Toddlers' Group (St C)
		7.00 pm	Holy Communion at St Cuthbert's
Tuesday	22	7.00 pm	Holy Communion at St Cuthbert's
Wednesday	23	10.00 am	Holy Communion (St Cuthbert)
		12 noon	Market Day Lunch at St Cuthbert
		2.00 pm	St Cuthbert's Infants' Service at St C
		7.00 pm	Holy Communion at St Cuthbert
Thursday	24		Maundy Thursday
		11.00 am	Holy Communion (Bubwith House)
		2.15 pm	St Cuthbert's Juniors' Service
		7.00 pm	Holy Communion at St Cuthbert
		7.00 pm	Holy Communion at Wookey Hole
Friday	25		Good Friday
		10.00 am	CTWA Service at St Cuthbert followed by Procession to Market Place
		2-3.00 pm	Meditation at Wookey Hole
Saturday	26		Easter Activity Morning
Sunday	27		Easter Sunday
		8.00 am	1662 Holy Communion at St Cuthbert
		10.00 am	Parish Communion at St Cuthbert
		11.00 am	Parish Communion at Wookey Hole
Wednesday	30	10.00 am	Holy Communion at St Cuthbert
		12 noon	Market Day Lunch at St Cuthbert
Thursday	31	11.00 am	Holy Communion at Bubwith House



PRESS RELEASE DATED 19 February 2016

SUBJECT: Cheddar Male Choir joint Concert with Launceston Male Voice Choir at St. Cuthbert's Church, Wells, BA5 2AW, on Saturday 9 April 2016 at 7:30pm. Doors open 7:00pm.

This is to help raise funds for the Children's Hospice South West who are celebrating their 25th anniversary.

Beware of these contagious diseases in church

Frontophobia: A morbid fear of the front seats in church. The sufferer is struck by an attack just inside the church door, and collapses in the nearest back seat.

Ear Frequency Destruction: Caused by sitting near the loudspeaker when the minister is singing full volume, off-key, etc., into the microphone.

Sermonic Throat: A dreaded choking caused by the start of the sermon. The sufferer unwraps a sweet very slowly and noisily, which seems to effect a complete cure.

Double Auricular Clearance: A condition due to the simultaneous opening of both ear ducts, which allows sound to enter one ear and leave the other without any absorption thereof. Condition is acute during Bible reading and sermon.

Accelerate Vocal Response: A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing faster than the organ.

Retarded Vocal Response:
A condition which causes the sufferer to try to sing slower than the organ.

Theexits: A condition where the sufferer rushes for the exit before the minister gets there.

Church Meeting Paralysis:
This can strike suddenly, when a post in the church needs filling. A good dose of enthusiasm works wonders with this sad affliction.



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From the Registers 2015-16

FUNERALS AND MEMORIAL SERVICES

16th February	Marie Evelyn Corp
19th February	Lily Lansdown
26th February	Brian Dodd

Sheila Jenkins

Resurrection Prayer

Loving Father,
Thank you for Jesus; for his life and death, but most of all for His resurrection, which makes all things new and possible.

Thank you for the reality that He defeated death by his work on the Cross and offers life forever with Him to all who believe in Him and receive Him into their lives as Lord and Saviour. Thank you for that incomprehensible but very real resurrection peace that we can know even in our darkest times by the presence of your Holy Spirit in us.

In joy and thankfulness we praise and honour you this Easter-time.

In Jesus' name. Amen.

By Daphne Kitching



The way

When Jesus bowed his head,
And dying took our place,
The veil was rent, a way was found
To that pure home of grace.

By John Elias

Deadline for Parish News articles : the **12th** of each month,
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Editorial note:

Views expressed in articles in this magazine are the views of the authors, and do not necessarily express the views of the Vicar, Churchwardens or PCC of St Cuthbert's Church.