THE UPPERWYLYE

PARISH NEWS

MAY 2018 'Growing in the Love of God' 1979 to 2018

Our vision is to be open, welcoming, growing and inclusive churches, living within the love of God, and sharing God's love and life with others.

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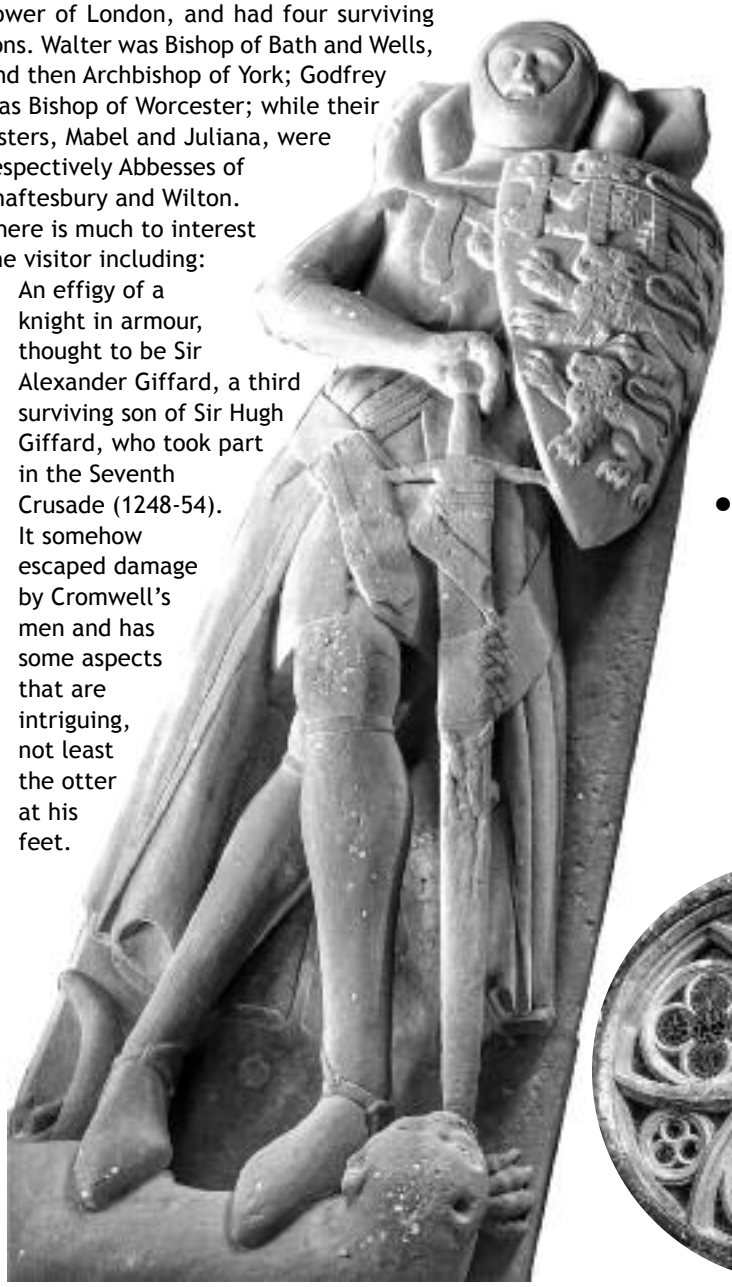
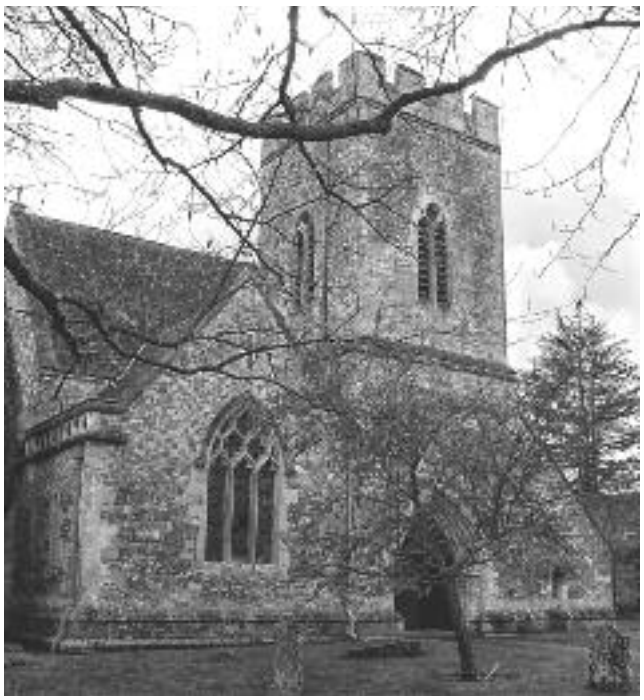
THE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED MARY AT BOYTON

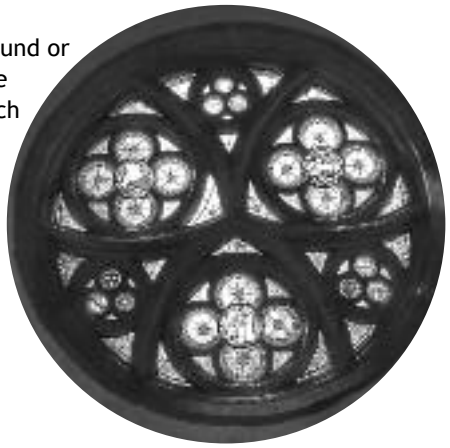
The existing church at Boyton, with two chantry chapels, was started in 1170 by what was to become the most influential ecclesiastical family in England, the Giffards. They had come over with William the Conqueror. The branch of the family that built the church lived at Sherrington. Sir Hugh Giffard was Constable of the Tower of London, and had four surviving sons. Walter was Bishop of Bath and Wells, and then Archbishop of York; Godfrey was Bishop of Worcester; while their sisters, Mabel and Juliana, were respectively Abbesses of Shaftesbury and Wilton. There is much to interest the visitor including:

- An effigy of a knight in armour, thought to be Sir Alexander Giffard, a third surviving son of Sir Hugh Giffard, who took part in the Seventh Crusade (1248-54). It somehow escaped damage by Cromwell's men and has some aspects that are intriguing, not least the otter at his feet.





- The 13th Century round or wheel window in the Giffard Chapel, which is believed to be unique in a parish church. It is twelve feet in diameter but the original glass was lost, so what is now there is Victorian.



- An internationally important collection of stained and coloured glass, installed in the late 1950s. It dates from the 13th to the 19th Century and is made using a variety of different techniques. Some of it is English medieval, thrown out of Salisbury Cathedral, and some European from different sources.

Continued on page 3

Photograpy: Robin Culver

Please let Robin know of any Social Dates you have so they can be included in the diary. We deliver this magazine door to door to all our ten villages, and the editorial team would love to have a greater overview of what is going on in the villages.

T: 840790 robinwculver@mac.com

SUPPER EVENING AND TALK ON MARIDI, SOUTH SUDAN 21ST MAY

As you will know, this diocese has long-standing links with South Sudan, and our Deanery is linked to Maridi diocese; some of you may have met Bishop Justin when he stayed with me in 2013.

I've just been spending two weeks in Maridi, both to develop our link and to help deliver a conference for youth leaders - and I was amazed how very much valued our link is, and how many people wanted to talk about it.

Our Deanery Sudan Group is organising a supper evening in Sutton Veny Village Hall on Monday 21st May at 7pm for 7.30, when I will give an illustrated talk about the visit. Please put the date in your diary now and come along - tickets are available from me. *Jane Shaw, 850141*

CODFORD VILLAGE FETE NEEDS HELPERS!

There will be a meeting on
Saturday 16th June at 4.00pm
One free drink for all volunteers and children.

ROYAL BRITISH LEGION WOMEN'S SECTION HEYTESBURY BRANCH

Our next meeting will be held on 23rd May 2018 in the Residents' Hall of the Hospital of St John when our Speaker will be David Shaw with his talk entitled 'A Life of Fun and Laughter - With Some Serious Bits in Between' Part II.
Visitors always welcome.

ST JOHN'S SOCIAL EVENTS

Our **coffee morning** will be on **Wednesday 9th May at 11am.**

Friday 18th May a concert at 7pm by the UVA Warminster Group in our Hall. All are invited.

FILMS AT THE WOOLSTORE SPRING/SUMMER 2018

Wiltshire Moviola in association with the Woolstore Country Theatre
Tickets £6.00 available in advance at Budgens Post Office 850345
or at the door on the night (if not sold in advance).
Wednesday 2 May 7.30 pm
MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS
Biography/Drama/Romance
Kenneth Branagh directs and stars in this new version of Agatha Christie's novel, in which the Belgian sleuth Hercule Poirot finds himself stranded on a snowbound train in company with thirteen strangers and a corpse. There cannot be a person in the world who does not know the outcome, so the fun will be watching a cast of top-notch performers including Judi Dench, Derek Jacobi, Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer and many more go through their paces.
(Rescheduled from March)

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SUMMER FETE

Wessex Community Circus coming to Codford Village Fete
Saturday 23 June 2018
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Food and Beverage Stalls
Bouncy Castle

MINISTRY LETTER

I wonder if Jesus understood Latin? I don't suppose the Romans spoke Aramaic. When Jesus was interrogated by Pontius Pilate (a Roman), the only words he spoke in reply to the question: 'Are you the King of the Jews?' were 'It is as you say.' Otherwise he was silent. His accusers were the chief priests and the elders - did they speak Latin when in Herod's Palace, or would they have spoken Hebrew, the language of their scriptures?

Jesus probably spoke Aramaic at home, and studied Hebrew at the local synagogue as a boy. When he was 12 years old, his parents lost him, and eventually found him in the temple in Jerusalem, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. In Hebrew?

Nazareth, where Jesus grew up, is in Israel now, and the route passes through a fearsome checkpoint to reach Palestine, Samaria and Bethlehem. It felt like going into prison, with consecutive floor-to-ceiling turnstiles hardly wide enough for me and my suitcase, and cameras more in evidence than people. In Palestine, they speak Arabic which I could neither read nor speak, but we never hear of problems with language in the stories about Jesus.

In St Mark's account, Jesus spoke to Jairus's daughter in Aramaic, saying Talitha cum ('little girl, get up') when raising her from the dead. St John tells us that when Jesus was travelling through Samaria he stopped at Jacob's well, and spoke with a Samaritan woman. We know what they said, but what language did they speak? The Samaritans probably had their own dialect, and they still worship in Ancient Hebrew (not to be confused with the more usual Biblical Hebrew). At the Samaritan Museum in Nablus, the High Priest intoned (most dramatically) the opening verses of Genesis in both languages. He has two mobile phones, too.

The language we speak and the language of worship are not necessarily the same. Jesus taught his disciples the Lord's prayer in the Galilean language they knew best, starting with the word Abba, the Aramaic for 'Father'. At Pentecost, forty days after Easter, the Holy Spirit transformed twelve fearful disciples enabling them to speak to everyone present in his own language: 'Parthians, Medes, Elamites, and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabs - in our own languages we hear them speaking about God's deeds of power'.

That good news is now translated into 1,521 languages. Whoever we are, whatever our language, we can all hear Jesus speaking to us. As Jesus said: 'Anyone with ears to hear should listen.'

Katherine Venning

THOUGHT FOR THE MONTH

"In union with Christ Jesus, God raised us up and enthroned us with him in the heavenly realms, so that he might display in the ages to come how immense are the resources of his grace, and how great his kindness to us in Christ Jesus. For it is by grace you are saved, through trusting him; it is not your own doing. It is God's gift, not a reward for work done." (Ephesians ch2 v 6-9)

Contributed by Robin Hungerford

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THE CHURCH OF THE BLESSED MARY AT BOYTON *Continued*

- The striking table top or chest tomb, which is empty, was probably built for Margaret Giffard, who died in 1338.

- The organ was a gift by HRH Prince Leopold, Queen Victoria's son,who rented Boyton Manor in the 1870s. His Funeral Hatchment is hanging in the Chancel.

- The bells, which remain in working order. Two were originally cast in 1616 but recast in 1937. The most recent is the 'Remembrance Bell' installed in 1946 to be rung on Remembrance Sunday.

- Some particularly fine wood carving. The pew ends are 15th to 17th Century panels, while the pulpit is of 17th century design, but beautifully carved by Keevil of Bath in about 1960.

- The grooves in the arch of the church door are almost certainly where medieval archers, who were required to practice every Sunday after church, sharpened their arrows. Farm workers may subsequently have also used the arch to sharpen their tools.

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INSTEAD OF A LETTER

The Reverend Ian Duff, a priest, farmer, businessman and friend, confidant, mentor and pastor to so many, died on 28th March. His funeral took place in Upton Lovell, his adopted home, on 12th April. Four years ago, in March 2014, he wrote the Ministry Letter in the Parish News. We have decided to reproduce this 'epistle' in memory of Ian as it so clearly provides an insight into his soul and sums up the man he was. His words are as powerful and urgent today!

I find it very hard to cope with extremists, be they Christian, Muslim or Jewish. It seems to me that to be so certain you know God's mind is a form of blasphemy. It means you think of God as so small as to be confined by human ideas, to be comprehended by tiny human minds of prejudiced men and women.

Two events in the last ten days have focussed my thoughts on how very much the believers in the three main monotheist religions have in common and how misplaced mutual contempt and enmity is. But to start ten years back, in Bandung Indonesia, Yopie Buyung had started a new church which quickly made converts in the city and the surrounding countryside and developed into six congregations. One new convert was a rice farmer. On the shallow slopes below an extinct volcano, the rich soil, well watered, produces excellent yields of rice. Streams, which trickle down the slope, are harnessed by neighbours and directed through narrow channels to flood all the fields in turn. When the new Christian was ready to plant his crop, his Muslim neighbours excluded him from the common supply. Soon afterwards there was a drought and nobody had any water. Then suddenly a new spring appeared. Guess where? In the Christian's field. He hastened to share it with his neighbours and friendly relations were restored.

Jesus taught us that love is the most important part of the Jewish Law. We should love our neighbours – – even more importantly we should love God, because that is the response he longs for to his great generosity. When Jesus was asked who was the neighbour we should love, he chose, as an example of truly loving behaviour, a man of a different religion. The Samaritan showed such love in rescuing a wounded man left to die at the roadside as to put to shame his Jewish neighbours.

Which brings me to an event, in the late afternoon, ten days ago. A severe accident at Upton Lovell occurred outside the Toran restaurant. The cause is not yet certain, but a van crossed the road and hit an oncoming car head-on. The woman driving the car was very severely injured. The emergency services had to cut her out and it was pouring with rain.

Five cars back was my friend, Robanny, the manager of the Toran. Robanny is a very sincere Bangladeshi Muslim. He left his car and hastened to open the restaurant as an emergency dressing station; providing hot water and whatever else was needed. As he told me, the fact that his business was closed all evening was not important in the face of the woman's need.

Those are two stories which tell of the mutual respect which should take place between Christians and Muslims.

Then two days ago, we heard of the death of our close Jewish friend, Vera. Vera and Brian were acquaintances whose son Martin was a school friend of our Andrew. They faced a sudden tragedy. Martin had gone missing in the Alps on a school trip. As they hastened to the scene to help in the search for him, they left their daughter, Tanya, in charge of her grandmother. We found that they were besieged in the house, by newsmen, wanting a story. Shirley took her overnight bag and stayed with them for several days until Vera and Brian returned with the news that Martin had fallen over a cliff. Afterwards, we and a few other friends were the only ones not embarrassed to exchange reminiscences about Martin. We have been close friends ever since. We and they were both confident in our belief in one god. We enjoyed the richness of our different traditions. They came to Carolyn's confirmation; we were guests at Tanya's bat mitzvah. More recently, they were guests at our golden wedding, and only last autumn, we took them out to dinner for their diamond wedding. All that friendship began with an act of neighbourliness, which anyone could have done. We shall miss Vera, but our grief will find consolation in so many happy memories.

All three religions have the same core values of love and kindness, values unknown to the extremists.

Ian Duff (MARCH 2014)

(Our thanks to Peter Hopkins who reminded us of this letter)

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TRIBUTES TO AND MEMORIES OF IAN DUFF

- Rev Ian Duff had a remarkable series of careers: a chemical engineer with Shell; a company consultant; farming at East Farm, Knook; finally training for the priesthood and being ordained as an unpaid Anglican priest, serving as Team Vicar in Codford and Upton Lovell, and continuing after formal retirement. Ian was a man of great ability, a wise counsellor and a guider of human beings. No one could have been kinder, more helpful or more solicitous for the welfare both spiritual and material of those living in our Team villages. RS
- He had stature and authority which, coupled with his spirituality and compassion, made him a priest with a mandate - and he got things done. He was certainly persuasive in that no-one else could have talked me into having my feet washed in public or coaxed me into helping the PCC secretary with the minutes 'just this once' back in 1999 - the twinkling in his eye showed he knew I would still be doing the job almost twenty years later! DS
- Ian was a persuasive, caring motivator who generated much good within the community. We are all the richer for knowing him and he will be much missed by our village and all who were
l lucky enough to know him. CW and TW
- Rev Ian Duff was widely respected and will be greatly missed. He was completely responsible for re-ordering of St Peter's, including the installation of a new organ. He instigated the Mens' Fellowship Breakfasts. SF
- Ian Duff was Team Vicar at St Peter's in the 90s, before becoming a much-loved member of the wider team. On a personal level I remember especially his help to me when I took over as Churchwarden; his advice on procedures and rightful priorities, on the history of St Peter's and, from the pulpit, the sheer wisdom of his thinking. I always like to think that his background training as an engineer brought clarity to his mind - but perhaps I would say that. Be that as it may, I shall hear his voice for ever. AFB

TURBO'S TALES (DOG BLOG)

Ducks have enjoyed the weather recently and so have I. The snow was summed up by someone in Budgens who said, "I love ... looking at it," and the rain cursed by a farmer who cannot do anything with sodden fields. As for me, with no travelling to do and no living to make, it has been fine. This winter has been a turning point in my ablution regime because the necessary removal of frozen bits of snow from my undercarriage, coupled with having my paws rinsed in warm, disinfected, water as a precaution against Alabama Rot has meant I have had to be patient, while one of them gets out the bath and the towel. As a Granddog, I don't want to teach farmers, vets or any other dog owner how to suck eggs but there have been nine cases of AR in our area, so lesions, renal failure and death don't just happen in America. Anyway, I have come to love the warm bath mid-afternoon and now look forward to it - and the biscuit that follows it. I was particularly amused to hear that the charity raising money is called ARRF - Alabama Rot Research Fund; "very appropriate," I barked.

The Guvnor hasn't been so lucky. I took him out into the garden as usual one morning, at about 7.30, on one of those snowy days and when he had fed the chickens and inspected the premises for break-ins or damage, he used the boot jack to remove his wellies and, off balance, slipped over on an icy patch. Anyone else would brush themselves down and start all over again; he needed six stitches in his elbow by the brilliant Dr Bond, who stood at his surgery door and said, "Come in; we've been expecting you."

The human body is an amazing thing. Two weeks to the day and bandages are off and he is back doing all the normal stuff – like falling over even when sober. We have taken advantage of a lull in the lousy weather today to do some gardening, viz digging up a dead rose and planting a new one in the hole just outside the kitchen window and in full view of the world. This would be fine except this rose is called Jude the Obscure and is probably more used to growing in the shade of a tree or under the clematis.

Just as the Guvnor was smiling at the irony of this, a boffin came on the radio to explain that they had just discovered a new gene, the one that accounts for some people's shyness or insecure characteristics. The Guvnor wondered why it had taken so long and reckoned it was probably because it was hiding behind all the other genes.

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HEYTESBURY IN A AND B CUP FINAL

The first game in March for the Bury was a tough one. Division 2 Champions Holt were the visitors to Heytesbury Park. One point was needed to confirm second place in the league and promotion back to Division 1 at the first attempt. In a thrilling game, Heytesbury were twice behind before winning the match in the final minutes, 3-2.

With the last league game of the season postponed due to the snow, we moved on to the Division 2 Cup. Six group matches were to be played for a place in the semi Finals. The first 2 matches were at home and produced big wins. 6-0 v Greyhound and 9-0 v Trowbridge Wanderers. Unfortunately, we were now picking up lots of injuries, but we managed to raise a team for the away leg at Greyhound. A 2-5 win was encouraging. It was a Tuesday evening game at the Park that followed and a very good 4-1 win against Zeals. A semi-final spot was confirmed with a 4-0 win at Trowbridge.

With 4 or 5 games remaining, Heytesbury striker Craig Sheppard needs just 4 more goals to break the all time Heytesbury record of 60 goals in a season. We wish him luck.

Heytesbury will play Melksham Town "A" in the Final of the Trowbridge and District League A&B Cup on Tuesday 24th April 7:30 pm kick off at Westbury Town FC, Meadow Lane, Westbury. All support will be welcomed.

Martyn Spratt

ANGLING NOTES

As I anticipated, February was a disappointment as regards rainfall with only 61% of long term average. The Environment Agency report, however, that levels in the chalk aquifers of South Wiltshire are normal which surprises me! As I write this on March 31st, we are into our third day of constant rain. Some of this will hopefully get down to the aquifers even though we are well past the recharge period.

I attended a meeting organised by the Wiltshire Wildlife Trust to celebrate their work on river restoration in the Avon catchment with partners, the Environment Agency, Natural England, Salmon and Trout Conservation and the Wessex Chalk Stream and Rivers Trust. There was also a speaker representing a group of volunteers from Wincanton who have taken on the task of cleaning up and improving the river in that town. The most important information to come out of the meeting for me was the fact that the phosphate levels in the Avon are very high and this coupled with high levels of silt is having a major adverse impact on fly life. Sewerage treatment works are largely responsible for the high phosphates and farm runoff for the high silt levels. Most of the restoration work is EU funded and it must be asked, is it worth spending a lot of money on restoration work when water quality is so poor?

I also attended the AGM of the Wiltshire Fishery Association. At the meeting, it was confirmed that Wessex Water are on course to deliver the reduced abstraction from the Wylye and Avon which it is required to deliver this year. Our speaker described the long term study being carried out on the Wylye into the grayling population. The grayling are under real stress and the population has declined seriously in recent years. The cause could be a combination of low flows, water quality or predation by otters and cormorants. Last year was particularly bad as, by December, the river was very low and the grayling seemed to have disappeared from their usual haunts. One of their defence mechanisms is to move out when pressured by predators.

Robin Mulholland

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The weather! Yes, I'm going to be terribly British and discuss the weather. It is with some caution that I pull the bedroom blind up in the mornings. I must choose my tone and wording very carefully as I describe what the outside world looks like, or should I say the sky and what is coming from it. This can determine the whole day ahead for us, specifically my husband, which in turn has a rather hefty impact on my mood and outcome for the day (marriage counselling not needed, yet!). Rain comes first, swiftly followed by wind conditions, speed and direction, apparently licking the tip of my finger and sticking it out the window isn't a good enough diagnosis.

Cows are routine, come rain or shine, but arable is very dependent on weather as this defines the ground conditions. Wind plays havoc with fertilizer and spraying, as does frost. Rain just about puts a stop to everything as it makes the ground unworkable, the crops become tough, uncuttable and the grain too wet which means storage is not possible without drying it which then has an impact on the quality, this can drop the grade from milling to feed standard which then affects our selling power and income. Grass will be too wet to store for silage.

Even the sun and heat can be a thorn in our sides as this can scorch crops, having an impact on the quality; although, overall, the sun is a good thing. When I was first married the general assumption from people was that I must dread the harvest period because my husband would be so busy. Far from it, because if he was combining there was one guarantee, the sun was shining or at least it was warm and dry. This meant he was making progress. The most demanding time is the autumn; this is when the long days and hours toiling come into play as the ploughing, cultivating, rolling and drilling takes place and can go on into December and we must work with the weather conditions as best we can.

Currently the fertilizer spinner is sitting patiently waiting, as grass and crops yearn for that little extra help. The drill and barley seed are in the side lines, with fields prepared for planting, and all we can do is put our faith into the lap of the gods and hope for the skies to clear, the wind to be gentle and the temperature moderate 'down on the farm'.

BOOK REVIEW

THE BEAUTY AND THE HORROR
by Richard Harries

The sub-title 'Searching for God in a Suffering World' may sound grim, but this is a marvellously life-enhancing book.

In a sense, detached from 'church', Harries, once Bishop of Oxford, deals with the meaning of existence with great wisdom and a robust interpretation of the human condition. He looks directly at our imperfect world, and such is his clear-sighted common sense, his assessments have drawn praise from, among others, the Director of the British Humanist Association.

Writing about what it means to have faith in God, he puts an emphasis on humanism, both secular and Christian, which affirms all that makes for our flourishing. But Christian belief takes us a step further, to a richer deeper concept of living well that transcends the ego - even with the limitations of language to explain it.

Thus there are plentiful glimpses at great art and literature. Each give a wider dimension, in particular as an aid to understanding human tragedy - think Dostoyevsky or William Golding and, one of my favourites, the artist Stanley Spencer. A quotation "Atheism should be encouraged for the sake of faith" (T.S. Eliot) gives one pause for thought.

"The result is a profound statement of what it means to have faith in the living tradition of Christianity" is a review quotation that really sums it up.

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WHERE DOES YOUR PLASTIC GO ?

If you watched 'Blue Planet 2', you would have seen Sir David Attenborough delivering a powerful rallying call to do more to protect our fragile environment. The pupils of Sutton Veny School have responded to Sir David's calls. For their Science Week 2018, the theme was Exploration and Discovery with each class taking an aspect of plastic pollution to discover and explore.

Thursday 22nd March was 'Science Day' and a full day was dedicated to a series of fun activities to inspire our young scientists. We all hope that our exploration and discovery will help awareness of the fragile state of our oceans and challenge our readers to question their own use of plastic.

So, where does your plastic go?

Children's Responses to Science Week 2018

Q1: ***What did you enjoy about Science Week?***

Marcia (Year 6): "All of the different activities we did. I like learning new things like how you need a bumpy surface for fizzy bubbles to form."

Oliver (Year 6): "When we did the Mentos and diet coke explosion! I also liked the cornflower slime that could change state from liquid to a solid depending on the pressure applied."

Maebh (Year 2): "It was really fun making the giant bubbles in Auckland Class and making the giant wave out of recycled plastic."

Edward (Year 2): "The bubbles in Auckland and excavating penguins from the ice!"

Q2: ***What do you think about the problem of plastic pollution?***

Marcia (Year 6): "It is really upsetting that we are doing it to our planet. Animals and our environment are just as important as we are, we need to look after it all."

Oliver (Year 6): "It's just horrible that people continue to harm the environment."

Maebh (Year 2): "I have learnt that plastic bags can look like jellyfish and that sea creatures can eat them by mistake. It makes me feel sad."

Edward (Year 2): "It is sad because it is affecting so many animals."

Q3: What can we do to help plastic pollution?

Marcia (Year 6): "We can buy products that are not made out of plastic or that are eco-friendly. Don't buy single use, unnecessary plastic."

Oliver (Year 6): "Buy things we need, not want, and use recyclable materials instead."

Maebh (Year 2): "Re-use plastic bags"

Edward (Year 2): "Stop buying single use plastic. Re-use plastic."

AROUND THE APIARY

Well, we are still waiting for Spring and there are bee-friendly plants flowering, but it has been too cold for the bees to break cluster and take advantage of the available food. It seems such a waste of the pollen and nectar despite how beautiful the flowers look. But the forecast is for the weather to get warmer by the end of the week. I went up the garden just now and the bees were flying, and bringing in some pollen. This is always a good sign - this means that the queen is there and has started to lay eggs.

So as the weather warms up and it's T-shirt sort of warm, I will be starting hive inspections when the first thing is to look for the queen. If you can't find the queen, then you look for eggs, and if there are no eggs, the colony is in trouble. But in this hive, I have found the queen and she is laying. She lays her eggs from the middle of the frame in a rugby ball shape and the worker bees will put honey and pollen around the sides so it's there to feed the brood with before they cap the cells over. It takes 21 days for the new worker bee to emerge as an adult and she starts her life doing hive duties, mainly cleaning out cells and feeding brood.

A worker bee only lives six weeks in the summer and one bee will produce a quarter of a teaspoon of honey in her lifetime. To fill a jar with honey it's calculated that they will fly 50,000 miles and visit 1,000s and 1,000s of flowers to do this - what great little critters they are.

Now we have to think about swarming - if we let this happen, the old queen will leave the hive and take half the workers with her. There will be a virgin queen left to take over the colony with the other half of the bees. The downside to this is that we won't get a honey crop because half of the workforce has gone.

Do we really think we can survive without pollinators and would we want to with no flowers to brighten our days? Beekeepers that keep their bees in towns and villages surrounded by gardens full of flowers seem to fare better than some of mine because, at some times of the year, there's nothing to be found in an agricultural desert, so the lovely clean fields of wheat and barley and nice fields of lush green grass are good for our food production but no good for bees and other wildlife. We need to make changes and encourage farmers to plant more wild flowers with their crops for the good of us all.

Den Pictor, your local friendly beekeeper

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HEYTESBURY DUCK RACE 2018
WEATHER 1 DUCKS 0

Sadly, this year's Duck Race had to be cancelled for Health and Safety reasons. The committee carried out a Risk Assessment at the Mill Bridge at 09.45 on the morning of the race. In consultation with three experienced fishermen, it was decided that the River Wylye was flowing too fast (the water level being extremely high) for the safety of any volunteer who needed to be positioned in the river. The safety of the general public along the unfenced river bank was also taken into consideration.

A raffle type draw has been carried out and the 3 winners were:

1st - Jools Welsh ticket 506;
2nd - Am in ticket 248;
3rd -Sue Tunnard ticket 649.

No booby prize was given for the last duck over the line, as it didn't take place!

We were very sorry to disappoint the hundreds of generous supporters and those who kindly gave donations but we hope for better weather conditions next year.

Although the Duck Race didn't happen this year, with all the generous donations and the duck tickets sold, a total of £1,342.15 was raised. It is a fantastic amount and will go towards the church, so thank you to everyone for your support.

A date for your diary next year - The Heytesbury Duck Race will take place on Easter Saturday 20th April 2019... hopefully!

CONTRIBUTIONS

Someone observed, "He's a terrible gardener. Last week his artificial lawn died." It so happens that one of my neighbours has an artificial lawn, and it looks great! However, Heytesbury churchyard has real grass, and Adrian makes a really good job keeping it neat and tidy. But he must live, and we must pay him! The congregation has to find well over £1500 a year. When you walk through our churchyard, or visit a loved one buried there, do please help us. Make a contribution into the large black safe on the right as you enter the church. We would be very grateful.

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SHERRINGTON

Winter has seemed over-long this year but after weeks of drab, damp, grey days, on the 5th of April, I opened the door and stepped into Spring! The bank in the lane is starred with enamelled celandines, everywhere we see the pale smile of primrose clusters, daffodils nod, unbowed by wind and rain and there is the bustle of busy small birds.

Silver pussy willow catkins explode into clouds of golden pollen so essential for early bees. We can now scan the sky for the first martins and swallows (in fact Nigel saw his first swallow this afternoon in the field beside the river), and marvel at their return, yet again, to their nest sites.

In beautiful May, the great Ridge Wood puts on its display of wood anemones, primroses, violets and the wonderful mist of bluebells. May is the month when gardens are filled with the delicate foam of cherry blossom, pink and pristine white. However, we really needed the rain. Only now has the major winterbourne risen in the Berrill Valley above Chitterne. It actually rises West of Imber village, swells into wetlands and flows down through Chitterne to join the Chitterne Brook flowing on into the Wylye, such a lovely and welcome sight.

Interesting development on the major cress bed, in that, the widowed female swan has reappeared with another, possibly a new mate. Our injured male now deceased had the number N8Z and was ringed as an adult in Corton in September 2009. In April 2010 he was at Heytesbury, August 2011 at Stockton and in April 2013 nested on the moat in Sherrington. He then took up with another pen E5Z and was with her on the cress bed for the last years. She now appears to have returned with a new mate.

We have a photograph taken some years ago now, of Ian Duff, with Shirley and the choir in their new robes, standing outside Sherrington Church in the snow. It is a lovely photograph and will be our memory of Ian.

BL

SUTTON VENY

THE LENT WALK

The combination of a blizzard, just at the time when people might have been deciding whether to take part and the no dogs stipulation (due to concerns about Alabama Rot) were both factors in reducing the numbers attending this year's Lent Walk to about 10 die-hards. Numbers were slightly higher for the pre start gathering for coffee in St John's Church, Sutton Veny.

After a 'break out' from the labyrinth in the churchyard extension, the walkers crossed the Alexander Field. They continued to enjoy each other's company in the bracing conditions during a circular walk along Back Lane and on down to the Wylye where, by kind permission of Roz & Alex Walker, they were able to walk beside the river and into Trench Ground field. From there, courtesy of the access granted by Laura & Tom Hutchinson, they walked up through the fields to St Leonard's old church. They were lucky to have Brian Russell with them, who shared his knowledge of the old water meadows' infrastructure and also introduced the group to his cows that graze there. As an added bonus, three Geocaches were found en route. However, for many of the walkers, the best find was the warmth of the stove and a glass of something in The Woolpack afterwards!

Donations were collected for the charity Alzheimer's Support, which is setting up a new centre in Warminster.

Richard Jackman

CHURCH SERVICE

There will be a Service in the Church on Ascension Day, 10th May at 6pm with the Choir.

FROM THE REGISTERS

Baptisms

We welcome into the Christian Church
Wilfred Spencer Brockman Andrews
on 25th March at Heytesbury
May he grow in the Christian Faith

Weddings

Congratulations to
Meredith Palmer & Peter Martinek
on 24th March at Boyton
Elizabeth Bryant & Tomos Davies
on 4th April at Norton Bavant
May they have many
happy years of married life together

Funerals

Our sympathy and love to those who mourn the passing of
Anne Sawyer
on 21st March
at Norton Bavant/Semington
Nigel Williams
on 26th March
at Sutton Veny/Semington
Dilys Bailey
on 27th March
at Codford St Peter/Semington
Victor Rendell on
10th April
at Codford St Peter/Salisbury Crem
Ian Duff
on 12th April at Upton Lovell
May they rest in the peace
and light of Christ

Please contact the Ministry Team to make arrangements for Baptisms, Weddings, Funerals, Confirmation preparation or Service of Prayer and Dedication after a Civil Marriage. The clergy will officiate at any crematorium service.

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CHURCH SERVICES IN MAY

6th	Tytherington	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
6th Sunday	Codford St Mary	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP with hymns)	
of Easter	Norton Bavant	9.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
	Sutton Veny	10.00am	Sunday Worship	
	Upton Lovell	11.00am	Parish Communion	
	Heytesbury	11.00am	Parish communion	*choir*
	Tytherington	6.00pm	Taizé	
Thursday 10th Ascension Day	Sherrington	6.00pm	Ascension Day service	*choir*
13th	Boyton	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
Sunday after	Codford St Peter	10.00am	Sunday Worship	*choir*
Ascension	Sutton Veny	10.00am	Parish Communion	
	Codford St Mary	11.00am	Parish Communion	
	Knook	11.00am	Parish Communion	
	Upton Lovell	6.00pm	Evensong	
20th	Heytesbury	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
PENTECOST	Norton Bavant	9.30am	Parish Communion	
	Codford St Peter	9.30am	Parish Communion	
	Sutton Veny	11.00am	Matins	*choir*
	Upton Lovell	11.00am	Parish Communion	
	Codford Village Hall	4.00pm	Messy Church	
27th	Codford St Mary	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
TRINITY	Sutton Veny	8.30am	Holy Communion (BCP)	
SUNDAY	Codford St Peter	10.00am	Parish Communion	
	Heytesbury	10.00am	Sunday Worship	
	Boyton	11.00am	Parish Communion	*choir*
	Heytesbury	6.00pm	Evensong	

WEEKDAY SERVICES every week

We welcome you to share in prayers for the Church, the Nation, the World, the Sick, and for others as well as ourselves.

Tuesdays	Tytherington	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	Codford St Peter	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Wednesdays	Codford St Peter	9.00am	Holy Communion
Thursdays	Sherrington	8.30am	Morning Prayer
Fridays	Sutton Veny	8.30am	Morning Praye

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HOUSE GROUPS

Mondays 6.00 - 7.30 in Codford. Contact Clifford Stride 850941

Wednesday alternate weeks) 7.45pm in Water Meadow Cottage, Heytesbury. Contact Diana Hammond 841185

HOSPITAL OF ST JOHN, HEYTESBURY CHAPEL SERVICES

Sundays 10.30am
Eucharist with hymns
Wednesdays 10.00am
Holy Communion(1662)

CHAPLAINS

The Revd Russell Chamberlain 01373 824020
The Revd David Walters 01980 620038

Visitors are welcome to our services.

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