



Notes from the Riverbank

The newsletter for St Thomas of Canterbury Church in Goring,
St Mary's Church in Streatley and St Andrew's Church in South Stoke

November 2013 – 3rd edition

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• Welcome to the third issue of "Notes from the Riverbank."

All contributions should be sent to Toria, the editor, by the 17th of each month at the usual email address webcontent.thomandmary@gmail.com. The on-line versions of the calendars are maintained by Glenn Cooke using the same email address. Bookings for the church or Canterbury Room should be made by contacting the UB Parish Secretary Sue Melsher at suemelsher@parkway.co.uk. We aim to produce the on-line and printed versions of each issue by the 25th of each month.

• Pastoral letter: "O Come, let us sing unto the Lord"



In a former parish one day I confessed to my director of music that I invariably prepared my sermon while listening to a piece of music. "Ah," he replied, "then from what we hear from you on a Sunday morning we shall have to guess what that music is". He wasn't serious, of course. But the fact remains, music is vitally important to me as it is to the Church.

Ever since the shepherd boy, David, picked up his harp and sang to the troubled mind of King Saul, devout worshippers have rehearsed their psalms and hymns. In the garden of Gethsemane, we are told, Christ and his disciples sang a hymn. The father of modern theology, Karl Barth, began each day with the music of Mozart and only then did he read the newspapers and work on his dogmatics. He said that if he ever he should get to heaven he would first of all seek out Amadeus. And then he would enquire about the whereabouts of Augustine, Aquinas, Luther and Calvin. He continued, "It may be that when the angels go about the task of praising God, they play only Bach. I am sure, however, that when they are together *en famille* they play Mozart; and that then too our dear Lord listens with special pleasure".

I listen too with pleasure to the choirs within the benefice and applaud them for their careful preparation of the music, and the discipline they show in their regular, weekly practices. They set the tone for us all and in many ways provide the leadership.

On 22nd November we celebrate the feast of St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music. "She sang in her heart to the Lord" and as she sang she joined the chorus of angels and archangels in heaven; whose praise will never end.



I would like to thank all those within the benefice who contributed cards and gifts in September. On the Feast of St. Matthew Viv, I and our family were giving thanks for our 50 happy years in Ministry. At the special service in Streatley, the choir of St. Mary's Church beautifully sang Wesley's *Lead me, Lord*, and the members of St. Thomas' choir sent a card/photograph of their 2013 visit to Romsey Abbey which all members signed. All tokens were greatly appreciated.



Leighton Thomas

● Ian Wallace

It is with sadness the Ministry Team and Churchwardens announce the death of Ian Wallace on October 23rd 2013. Ian was a much loved Lay Minister in the Benefice. A Memorial service for him will take place at St Mary's on Tuesday November 12th at 2pm. A tribute will follow in the next edition of "Notes from the Riverbank".

● Reverend Luci Heyn



On October 6th it was announced that our Curate, Luci Heyn, has been appointed as Team Vicar in the Hermitage Team. Luci will continue in her present post until after Christmas and will be licensed to the Hermitage Team in late January. Please pray for Luci as she prepares to move to this new role in her ministry.



I have mixed emotions about this announcement. I'm delighted that the role at Hermitage offers the three key aspects I was seeking, namely rural ministry, a team structure, and an opportunity to develop my ministry in schools but I will be very sorry to leave this benefice. I feel extremely fortunate to have served my curacy with you all and I am very grateful for the support that you have offered throughout my time here.

Please do pray for the rest of our ministry team and churchwardens as I appreciate my departure places a greater burden on their shoulders. However, by the time I leave, I hope you will have appointed your new vicar and will be looking ahead to the end of the interregnum and exciting things to come.

With every blessing,



Luci

● St Andrew's Church Project



The re-ordering at the back of St Andrew's Church was finished on October 11th – ahead of schedule! Many thanks to Boshers for a superb job. We have now had our first Coffee Morning which was very well attended. We plan to have a celebration and thanksgiving at the Carol Service on December 22nd at 4pm, and will use the new Servedy for mulled wine and mince pies afterward.



Sally Horton and Martin Thompson (Churchwardens)

● Church clean at St Mary's



In readiness for Christmas we're giving St Mary's a good clean from 10am on Saturday 9th November. Everyone welcome (with your dusters!). Please come along and help keep our church looking well-loved. Thank you!



Diana Fenton

● Crisis and CIRDIC ploughman's lunch



The next Crisis and CIRDIC ploughman's lunch is on Thursday 14th November, 12 noon to 2pm, at Oriel House, Thames Road, Goring with piano music.

CIRDIC is "Churches In Reading Drop-In Centre" which is run to help people who are homeless or in inadequate accommodation. St Mary's collects food and clothes for them as does the Catholic Church, and volunteers from Goring and Streatley help with food preparation and with meals on Mondays and Fridays.

Crisis is the London based charity for the homeless. The Archbishop of Canterbury is the patron of this charity. They have an Oxford centre in the Old Fire Station which provides help with accommodation, education and jobs as well as meals.



Ann Moody

● Harvest Folk Concert and Supper



On Saturday October 5th St Mary's held a combined harvest supper and folk concert. The Three Pressed Men and our own Rebecca Joice performed folk songs, while Rod Scriven compered and ran a small charity auction for two pictures generously donated by Peter Ottaway's brother.

The food, supplied by a wonderful team of volunteers led by Rowena Buie, was rather more exciting than the average Ploughman's Supper, and John and Alison Gray supplied incredible non-alcoholic punch. The Three Pressed Men played and sang harvest based folk songs, some very moving and some very funny, and accompanied these with a whole selection of concertinas and accordions. One song was also accompanied by a virtuoso performance on 'the spoons'. Rebecca sang many beautiful traditional songs connected with the harvest season, while accompanying herself on her auto harp.



The Three Pressed Men and Rebecca Joice at the St Mary's Harvest Festival Folk Concert.

Thank you very much to all the amazing volunteers who helped both beforehand, afterwards, behind the scenes and in the front of house as well as to our magnificent performers, especially to the very versatile Rebecca Joice who managed to perform all the voluntary roles as well as singing.



Stella (author), Alison Gray (photographer)

● Remembrance Sunday and Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal



All three churches will be holding Remembrance Sunday services at 10:50am on 10 November.

The Royal British Legion works shoulder to shoulder with all who currently serve, or have served, in the Armed Forces. It was formed after the First World War which was hoped to be the 'war to end all wars'. But war and conflict have continued and today our Armed Forces are experiencing casualties in various conflicts. To ensure that the memory of those who have given their lives in the Service of their country will continue and be honoured for evermore, please support the Poppy Appeal. The poppy is a symbol of this Remembrance and the collections on Sunday 10 November will be for this Appeal.



Tony Coward

● Christmas Fair 2013



The Christmas Fair is to be held in Church again this year on Saturday 30th November, from 11.00am to 2pm. We will have the usual array of stalls providing the opportunity for some casual Christmas shopping.

We are in need of donations for some of the stalls for the Christmas fair. In particular we require CDs, DVDs, prizes suitable for the raffle, bottles for the tombola, good quality books, nearly new children's books and toys, bric-a-brac, cakes, preserves, toiletries and plants.

If you need items to be collected contact David Badell on 871792, or they can be brought to Church before 11.00am on Saturday 30th November, or the Friday evening (29th November) between 4pm and 6pm.

We also need a few volunteers at 4pm on 29th November to help move the chairs and put up the tables.



Chris Tassell

● Ecumenical Advent Groups



These will start during the last week in November and run for 4 weeks in small house groups, followed by an Epiphany Celebration for everyone after Christmas on 9th January. The course book is "Heartbeat of Hope" by Elizabeth Rundle and the cost will be £6.

These groups are a wonderful opportunity to meet with people from all the churches in our community and to share the journey through Advent to Christmas. Sign-up lists are now in all the churches. Please come and join us... everyone welcome!



Judy Crawford

● Parish profile



The "parish profile" advertisement for a new Vicar has been published on the website of the Oxford Diocese at: <http://www.oxford.anglican.org/category/vacancies/>
A copy of the advertisement is also available on our website.

● SMASH: Change of day



SMASH at Streatley School has changed its day from Tuesdays to Mondays. The time remains unchanged at 15:15-16:30.



● Ride and stride



Berkshire Churches all over the county opened their doors on Saturday 14 September for the annual Ride and Stride event.

St Mary's was delighted to welcome the first of its many visitors -- Bishop Colin Fletcher accompanied by Basil Eastwood (Chairman of Oxfordshire Historic Churches (OHC) Trust), and Mrs Eastwood, on their way through the Deanery by bicycle to Henley. After a brief tour of the church and a prayer, Luci Heyn was ready to set off with them over the river.



Angela Bulmer

● Calling all carers



At our October meeting we were visited by Fiona McPherson of Carers Oxfordshire. As ever, Fiona contributed usefully to the meeting, clarifying points raised by members of the group, giving information about services available, and telling us about forthcoming events of interest to carers. Fiona can be contacted on 0845 050 7666.

Our next meeting will be on Thursday December 12th at the Community Centre. This will be an informal gathering. New members will be most welcome to join us; for further details telephone 873857.



Ann Hart

● Watership Cantabile and St. Thomas' Church Choir



Watership Cantabile, a choir based in Newbury, will be joining the St. Thomas' Church Choir for an evening of Christmas and Advent music in St. Thomas' Church on Saturday 21st December at 7:30pm.

Conducted by Michael Howell and accompanied by organist Gillian Blythman, the programme is a mixture of Christmas and Advent music, old and new, including Vaughan Williams's much loved "Fantasia on Christmas Carols", and the southern premiere of a new piece by Michael entitled "The Star Song - A carol to the King". There will be refreshments afterwards in the Canterbury Rooms.

Once they've been printed, tickets for the concert will be £8 full price, £6 for concessions, available either from the church or through Inspirations.