



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

April 2014 – 7th edition

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● Welcome to the seventh 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: Just for you!



One of the remarkable features of the Gospel is how Jesus speaks to particular individuals at very particular times. He adopts a tone of voice – and finds an intellectual level – that is appropriate to the occasion and just right for the person he is addressing.

I'm sure this natural predisposition was encouraged in the Temple when Jesus was a lad. You will remember, perhaps, that his parents found their little boy sitting among the scribes and doctors of the law, listening to them and asking questions. Later, in his ministry, Jesus enjoys this vital, personal encounter with people. Let me give you four examples:

Nicodemus was 'a leader of the Jews' and an intellectual. Jesus and he spent the night talking about such esoteric matters as life and death, guilt and forgiveness, birth and re-birth. I would like to have sat quietly in the corner of the room that night and listened!

Again, at a village well, Jesus engages a woman in a conversation – casually, it seems – about the history of the well. This soon develops into a discussion about marriage and the troubled relationship she was suffering with her present "husband". They speak of the coming Messiah and how (said Jesus) the Christ was indifferent to matters of racial difference and tribal peculiarities. The woman's response is noteworthy. Her initial defences dissolve. Her alarm subsides. She returns home

with a kind of missionary zeal and excitement. Her neighbours must come out to hear and see this man for themselves!

Again, Jesus' encounter with his followers is quite different. His tone at the village of Caesaria Philippi is uncompromising. He insists that they should now count the cost of their discipleship and be prepared to suffer for it.

Again, and finally, Jesus speaks to the crowds in the most general terms, with stories and parables. Then he asks them to relate his message to their individual experience and to find their own level of understanding. He still does that among us today.

And your own situation at the moment? Are you, I wonder, a worrier? Then read the passage below and imagine that Christ is speaking to you. With a gentle voice, a sympathetic smile and a deep understanding of our own predicament he looks into the confusion of our souls and invites you into his kingdom.

It is a message just for you!



Leighton Thomas

25 "Therefore I tell you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or drink; or about your body, what you will wear. Is not life more than food, and the body more than clothes? 26 Look at the birds of the air; they do not sow or reap or store away in barns, and yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not much more valuable than they? 27 Can any one of you by worrying add a single hour to your life? 28 "And why do you worry about clothes? See how the flowers of the field grow. They do not labour or spin. 29 Yet I tell you that not even Solomon in all his splendour was dressed like one of these. 30 If that is how God clothes the grass of the field, which is here today and tomorrow is thrown into the fire, will he not much more clothe you – you of little faith? 31 So do not worry, saying, "What shall we eat?" or "What shall we drink?" or "What shall we wear?" 32 For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. 33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. 34 Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

Matthew 6: 25-34

● St Mary's Church Annual Meeting



The Annual Vestry meeting to elect Churchwardens and the Annual Parochial Church Meeting to elect PCC Members and Sidesmen, to approve the Accounts for 2013, and to discuss the Parish Report, will be held on Sunday 6th April, in church, at 11:45am. Nomination forms for those wishing to stand for election to the PCC are on the noticeboard inside the main church door.



Alison Gray (Churchwarden and PCC Secretary)

● St David's Day Concert



St Mary's hosted a concert in aid of Great Ormond Street on St David's Day. There were 21 performers who performed solos, duos and trios including poetry readings, arias and music on flute, autoharp, cello, viola, piano and organ. The pieces chosen were all short and cheerful, from a wide variety of musical genres and from many different centuries stretching from the 15th Century to the 20th, and included songs in Welsh, French, Italian and English. St David himself would have approved of the fact that the concert belonged to everyone, including the audience who sang in four items.



The whole evening was tremendous fun and very enjoyable. We are very grateful to all the wonderful performers and to the usual superb 'backroom support crew' who ran the door, the refreshments, the prize draw, the lighting and the microphones. Thank you also to the church wardens and the PCC for allowing us to use St Mary's for the concert. On top of having an excellent evening we raised over £660 for Great Ormond Street Hospital. We are hoping that at least some of the performers will return and give us a whole concert each in the future. A huge thank you to the performers for choosing such wonderful pieces, and to the three accompanists who both accompanied others and performed themselves as well.



Photo from Patricia Williams (and her broken iPhone!)

● Easter flowers at St Thomas'



A lily donated in memory of a relative or friend is a tangible and lovely way of expressing your affection. Our lovely church filled with scent and the beauty of flowers will bring pleasure to us all at this joyful time. If you would like to donate a lily, please do get in touch with me.



Jenny Boyd 872109

● St George's Day Celebration – a special service at St Mary's



On 27th April (the nearest Sunday to St George's Day) the Second Goring and Streatley Scout Group will lead the 10:30am service at St Mary's. They will be joined by three other troops from across the country who will be camping in Streatley Meadow over the weekend. The Christian ethos of the British Boy Scouts, of which this troop is a member, is a very important aspect of their life; our local Scout Leader, David Cooksley, is their Chief Commissioner.

Our local group will also join the group from St Andrew's at 10:30am on Sunday 18th May in St Mary's for our new Vicar, Revd Paul Boughton's first service in the Benefice. Do join us for what should be two very happy occasions.



Alison Gray, Churchwarden

● Piano Recital by Joseph Houston, Wednesday 7 May at 1.00



Friends of Music at Goring are delighted to announce that their first concert this year will be a lunchtime recital by the young pianist Joseph Houston. The programme will include music by Chopin, Liszt and Debussy.

Joseph studied at York University and the Royal College of Music. He has appeared as soloist in concertos by Brahms, Beethoven and Tchaikovsky, and given performances at the Royal Albert Hall, Purcell Room, and Wigmore Hall. He is supported by Making Music's Philip and Dorothy Green Award for Young Artists Scheme, and is a recipient of the Musicians Benevolent Fund 'Emerging Excellence' Award.

<http://www.josephhouston.co.uk/>

The recital will take place on Wednesday 7 May 2014 at 1.00–2.00 pm in St Thomas' Church, Goring. Tickets are £12.00 at the door or £10.00 if purchased in advance, and are available from Inspiration in Goring Arcade, from members of the Committee, or by phoning 873341.



Nigel Fountain

● St Mary's Church Spring Clean



The spring clean in preparation for Easter will take place at 10am on Saturday 12th April. Please come armed with your polish and dusters. All welcome – many hands make light work!



Diana Fenton on 874408.