



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

September 2014 – 11th edition

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Price per printed copy

● Welcome to the eleventh edition 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: Growing together



Over the next three months from September to mid-November, the Ministry Team will be using Bishop John Pritchard's book *Living Faithfully – following Christ in everyday life* as the basis for the sermons each week in our three churches. It is a very down-to-earth and practical book and we shall be exploring topics such as 'living gracefully', 'making peace' and 'living in an online world.'

Reading the book in advance will help you to engage more fully with the sermons and for this reason we have distributed copies to all three churches. They can be purchased from your churchwardens for £9 each. I would strongly encourage you to buy one for yourself, or share with a friend, so that you can read the relevant portions as we go along. The same topic will be looked-at on the same Sunday in all three churches.

These are the topics we shall be covering in September:

7th Sept: What does it mean to follow Jesus in everyday life? (Preface and pages 1-8)

14th Sept: Following God or our own way? (Part 1)

21st Sept: Living gracefully (Part 2, section 1)

28th Sept: Building community (Part 4, section 15)

We hope that the book and the sermons will lead to informal and lively discussions over coffee and in home groups so that, as members of a United Benefice, we will grow closer together in our understanding of what it means to be Christians in today's world.



Judith Aguda

● The Thames Pilgrim Way



For 2014, the Oxford Diocese is launching a brand new pilgrimage route called 'The Thames Pilgrim Way.' At 104 miles, the Thames Pilgrim Way follows a well-established national trail, and winds majestically through the very heart of the diocese and four archdeaconries.



To launch the new Way, Bishop John is to lead the first pilgrimage along the route from 18th to 28th September, travelling from Moulsoford to Tilehurst on Wednesday 24th September.

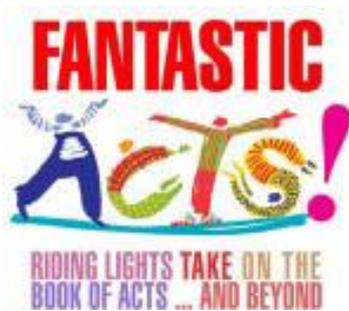
Everyone is welcome to join him for an hour... a day... or the whole 104 miles!

For more details see: <http://www.thamespilgrimway.org.uk/>

● Riding Lights take on the book of Acts... and beyond



Following last year's nationwide success with 'A Different Drum', Riding Lights take you on a whirlwind trip back in time. It's that wonderfully entertaining Mediterranean break you've always craved, starting at the Circus in Rome in AD 63 where the Acts of some Apostles roll to a mysterious halt. Curious about this, and in serious need of Italian ice-cream, Riding Lights' pilgrim entertainers arrive to pick up the trail of the astonishing survival of the church in those early years, when attractive Emperors like Nero made attending Alpha courses nigh on impossible. Not unlike parts of the known world today...



Which is why these vivid stories – random acts of kindness, blindness and divineness – are so important. Brilliant, inspiring stories of men and women whose faith burned with a flame that would transform an empire. In classic Riding Lights style, with vitality and abundant hilarity, you will be treated to highpoints plucked from the book of Acts, as well as many less familiar glimpses of the builders of the Christian church.

Don't worry if you think Eutychus might be good for ear-ache or that Polycarp is something you get from your DIY shop – all will be revealed in a wonderfully entertaining and uplifting show on Thursday 13th November in St. Thomas' Church, sometime in the afternoon (TBA).

● St Mary's Harvest Lunch



This year's Harvest Lunch will take place on Sunday 5th October in the Morrell Room at 12 noon. The £7.50 ticket includes an aperitif, a two-course hot meal (bring your own drinks), and entertainment from Roger Selman on the piano.



Liz Glover, phone 872224

● Friends of music at Goring: Recital by Raphaela Papadakis



The final concert in our 2014 series will be on Sunday 28th September at 3:30pm in St Thomas' Church, featuring the young soprano Raphaela Papadakis, accompanied by James Sherlock. The programme will include songs by Schubert, Liszt and Britten.

Tea and cakes will be served afterwards in the Canterbury Room, when there will be a chance to meet the performers. Tickets £10 in advance from Inspiration or £12 at the door.

- Trained at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama, Raphaela has made an impressive start to her singing career, both in opera and song recitals in Stuttgart and the Oxford Lieder Festival. Future appearances will be at the Barbican and Carnegie Halls.
- James Sherlock studied at Cheethams, Trinity College, Cambridge and the Guildhall School of Music and Drama. He is well-known as a pianist with appearances at Carnegie, Barbican and Wigmore Halls, BBC Proms etc. He is also well-known as a conductor.

● Friends of St Mary's (FoSM)



The 2014 FoSM AGM was held on March 23rd; 40 people attended. Items for discussion included:

- Nearly £10000 raised in 2013 from donations and fundraising;
- £5000 committed this year for two repair projects for St Mary's, including the replacement of the Celtic Cross;
- FoSM is now qualified to apply for full charitable status;
- Proposals to formalise membership;
- Fundraising curry/quiz event at which over £1600 was raised;
- Report on the Streatley Parish Plan.

 We are also planning to hold a concert in St Mary's at 7:30pm on Sunday November 9th – the evening of Remembrance Day. As part of the WW1 centenary commemorations, the evening will include popular songs, readings and music from those years. Further details nearer the time.



Graham Harvey, Chair FoSM

● Discoverer's end-of-term BBQ



Just before the summer holidays, Discoverers young and slightly-less-young gathered for an evening BBQ at the Vicarage, bravely hosted by Paul and Liz. It was rather damp outside so we played indoor games including "How many fruit chews can you balance on somebody" (the winner of which was undetermined due to lack of evidence), and "How many polystyrene packing worms can you thread onto a piece of string in five minutes."



The Discoverers then demonstrated just how fast they could wolf-down Chef Liz's excellent burgers and sausages, and Sous-chef Sophie's salads. A jolly good time was had by all (including Truffle, the dog); thank you everyone for making our end-of-term "do" so memorable.

● Local Ministry Course



As many of you know, I am beginning my training for Ordained Local Ministry this month. The training takes three years and consists (in part) of modules each lasting a term on a variety of topics. In order to support the benefice by encouraging others, free places are offered on the courses to anyone who would like to accompany me.

This term I will be doing a course on Mission and Evangelism in Reading on a Monday evening, beginning on 8th September so if you would like to join me the commitment would be one evening a week for 10 weeks. Most of the modules will be in either Reading or Oxford; they will not all be Monday evenings. Next spring I will be doing a module entitled "Introduction to the Bible", and in the summer term "Pastoral Care."

If you would be interested in attending a module either this year or at some point in the future then please contact me. And if you are keen to do this term's modules then don't delay – places need to be booked even though they are free!

 Wendy Middleton, phone 875435 or email wendy.middleton@tiscali.co.uk

● Would you like to come to tea?



Do you live on your own?

Are you 75 or over?

Are you free on a Sunday afternoon?

If so, then every month you are invited to tea on Sunday for cake and chat in a friendly home. *Contact the Elderly* is starting the tea parties for Goring, Streatley and South Stoke. If you would like to come along you will be collected by a volunteer driver and taken home afterwards. Give it a go! You never know – you might make some new friends! Alternatively, if you would like to volunteer to help as a driver and/or host then let me know.



Louise Booker, phone 07736839961 or email loubooker@hotmail.co.uk
More information at: www.contact-the-elderly.org.uk