



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 2016 – 31st edition

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• Welcome to the thirty-first 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 Jenny Hall at jandjh2@btinternet.com. We aim to produce the on-line and printed versions of each issue by the 25th of each month.



Pastoral Letter: Team JC!

As I write this letter, the Olympic Games are drawing to a close. In a couple of days' time all the athletes will be returning home and preparations will soon begin for Tokyo 2020! Team GB has done remarkably well, exceeding their target of medals won, and it has been a delight to see the team spirit displayed by them all as they have supported one another, sharing their disappointments and successes alike.

As I recall some of the interviews with the medal winners in which they talked about how hard it is to qualify for an Olympic Team, my thoughts went to those back home who hadn't been chosen in spite of training hard for the last four years. I wondered how they were feeling and whether they could bear to watch the games at all.

I recently read about a Christian woman in Oregon, USA, who had never been very good at sport at school and consequently was always among the last to be chosen when her classmates were divided into teams. This is what she said: "Standing alone, waiting for a team leader to pick me, I felt the minutes drag by like hours. I wanted and needed acceptance. The day I left high school part of my joy involved putting that pain behind me."[§]

But years later, she was able to write this: "No matter what our experience is in school sports, none of us has to feel unwanted, abandoned or rejected because God has called our names. God has chosen each of us for an all-star team... Blessed with the freedom of acceptance and secure in God's promise never to reject us, we can excel. We are beloved children of God, cheering one another on toward a final victory."[§]

As members of *Team JC*, if we put in the effort and never give up, we will all be gold medal winners as we share in Jesus Christ's victory over sin, the world and the devil. The Lord says: "Fear not, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by name; you are mine." Isaiah 43:1



Judith Aguda, Licensed Lay Minister

[§] Extracts from a contribution by Heidi Gaul to The Upper Room, May-August 2016, published by BRF



The Revd. Paul Boughton

As many of you will already know, the Revd. Paul Boughton was taken ill on 7th August whilst on holiday. He is now recovering at home after a stay in hospital in Switzerland and is making a steady recovery. He will not be working for at least a month to give him time and space to recover, but church services and church activities will, of course, continue as normal in his absence thanks to the Ministry Team and other church members.

Paul and his family have asked us to thank you for all your good wishes and for your prayers. They said "We are so grateful for the excellent care and huge kindness we have received from so many people". Please continue to pray for Paul and his family at this difficult time.



The Ministry Team and Churchwardens



Family Services

You are all invited to September's Family Services which will take place on Sunday 4th September at St. Thomas' Church, Goring at 9:30am and at St. Andrew's Church, South Stoke at 11:15am. Both services will be short (a maximum of 45 minutes) and coffee will be provided afterwards. In Goring there will be a supervised crèche, and in South Stoke there are plenty of toys at the back of the church for pre-schoolers and babies.

Family Services will take place on the first Sunday of the month in Goring and South Stoke for the rest of the year. In Goring, we also have *Tom Toms Sunday Club* and supervised crèche in the Canterbury Room on all Sundays during term time when we don't have a Family Service.



Harvest Festival

Please also join us for Harvest Festival on Sunday 2nd October. More details will follow in the October edition of Notes from the Riverbank, but please save the date!



Family picnic

Over the coming months we are hoping to start some different way for families to gather and enjoy some time together. The first is a family picnic on Sunday 4th September. We begin at either the family service at Goring or South Stoke and then gather at the lock from 12:30 for a picnic. Please bring your picnic, a blanket and something to share.



Steve Johnson, Assistant Curate



Dad's curry night

Dads are invited to a curry night on Friday 23rd September; please let me know if you would like to join in.



Steve Johnson stevejohn18@hotmail.com



Thank you from the Johnsons

We would like to say a huge "thank you" for the welcome we have received since we move to the Benefice in June, and for your patience when we forget names and where you "belong."

We would also like to say a very big "thank you" for the welcome hampers and beautiful flowers, which we very much appreciated. We still have some of your tins and boxes so if they are yours do let us know!



Steve, Lindsay, Esther and Anwen



Michael Howell organ recital

Michael Howell, the Director of Music at St Mary's and St Thomas', will be giving an organ recital in St Mary's church on Saturday 3rd September at 7:30pm. The program will include JS Bach's *Prelude and Fugue in B minor*, Vivaldi's *Concerto in G Major* and works by Couperin, Albinoni, Brahms, Liszt and Guilmant.

Tickets £10 or £8 concessions available on the door, from Inspirations in Goring, text 0776 233 9853, or email StMarysConcerts@hotmail.co.uk



Stella



Ride+Stride 2016

The annual sponsored Ride and Stride event raising money for Oxfordshire Historic Churches Trust and Berkshire Churches Trust will take place on Saturday 10th September 10am-6pm. You are invited to cycle, walk or horse ride to as many churches, chapels and meeting houses as you wish by a route of your own choice. There is usually a warm welcome and plenty of refreshments along the way! For more information, see: <http://ohct.org.uk/ride-stride/> and <http://www.berkschurchestrust.org.uk/ridestride>



Brenda Kerr Muir, St Thomas' Church Coordinator



Friends of Music Recital: Dinara Klinton

The distinguished Ukrainian pianist, Dinara Klinton, will be giving a recital in St Thomas' church at 1pm on Wednesday 5th October. <http://dinaraklinton.com/>

Sir Andras Schiff says of her: "Dinara Klinton's performance of Liszt's *Transcendental Etudes* is astonishing. She is a real virtuoso, a born pianist, a very natural player" so it should be a very exciting recital!



Tickets will be available from mid-September from Inspirations in Goring, £10 in advance, £12 at the door.



Joan and Nigel Fountain, 873341
(The recital by James Sherlock on 28th September has been postponed.)

United Benefice of
Goring & Streatley
with South Stoke



Benefice Calendar - September 2016

		<u>Goring</u>	<u>Streatley</u>	<u>South Stoke</u>
Sa. 3 rd	Organ Recital, Michael Howell. Tickets on door or at Inspirations		19.30	
Su. 4 th	Trinity 15 Holy Communion	8.00	11.15	
	Family Service	9.30		11.15
	Family Picnic @ The Lock, 12.30			
	Evensong	16.00		
	Discoverers	17.00		
Tu. 6 th	South Stoke Prayer Meeting @ 14.30, Crossways			
We. 7 th	Midweek Holy Communion followed by coffee	10.30		
Sa. 10 th	Ride & Stride see www.ohct.org.uk/ride-stride/			
	Wedding of Nicholas and Jacqueline	14.00		
Su. 11 th	Trinity 16 Holy Communion	9.30	8.00 & 11.15	11.15
	Stillness on Sunday: 'Seeking God'		17.30	
Tue. 13 th	Persecuted Christians Letter Writing Group	16.00		
We. 14 th	Midweek Holy Communion	10.30		
Thu. 15 th	Pick a Flick & lunch showing 'A Walk in the Woods'	10.30		
Sa. 17 th	Wedding of Ben and Sophie	14.00		
	Wedding of Jamie and Fenella		16.00	
Su. 18 th	Trinity 17 Holy Communion	8.00	11.15	
	Good News Service	9.30		
	Mattins			11.15
	Discoverers	17.00		
We. 21 st	Midweek Holy Communion	10.30		
	South Stoke Coffee Morning			10.30
Fr. 23 rd	Come on Board Scrabble in the Canterbury Room	15.00		
	Dads' Curry Night contact stevejohn18@hotmail.com			
Sa. 24 th	Coffee & Cake in the Canterbury Room	10.30		
	Wedding of Stephen and Rocio		12.30	
Su. 25 th	Trinity 18 Holy Communion	9.30	8.00	11.15
	Mattins		11.15	
Mo. 26 th	Mum's Out Tonight @ 8pm, 18 Wallingford Road, Goring			
We. 28 th	Midweek Holy Communion	10.30		

Morning Prayer: South Stoke @ 9.30am every Friday & Goring @ 9.15am on 8th & 22nd September