



# 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

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## • Welcome to the thirty-second edition of "Notes from the Riverbank."

All contributions should be sent to Toria, the editor, by the 17<sup>th</sup> of each month at the usual email address [webcontent.thomandmary@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto:jandjh2@btinternet.com). We aim to produce the on-line and printed versions of each issue by the 25<sup>th</sup> of each month.



### **Pastoral Letter: What's in a name? A personal reflection**

Call me a romantic if you like, or a sclerotic, or even a fuddy-duddy, but I get deeply agitated and hurt when I hear or read of a sudden outburst of blasphemy. Of its ubiquity there can be no doubt. The "name" carelessly used contaminates my enjoyment of an otherwise perfectly entertaining drama or comedy; its needless repetition in a novel or play tends to draw me away from a good and absorbing story.

A former prime minister (in admittedly quite another context) implored his parliamentary colleagues to accept the inevitable changes in our developing society. "Just get over it!", David Campbell said, and said again, "just get over it!". For my part, I find it relatively straightforward to accept 'inevitable changes' in line with our emerging, secular and multi-cultural Britain. I would deny that I am rigid and unable to adapt to what is happening around me, but I do get stirred when I hear the spitting out of a full-throated "Jesus Christ" in a public auditorium or in a conversation overheard on a high street. For me it is a violation of all that precious belongs to me; it is a barbaric, muddy-footed trespassing on ground which I consider intimately my very own. In this respect I am one with my Moslem neighbour who sometimes gets very angry with one using 'in vain' the name of the Prophet.

But what would my Lord say? I suspect he would be amused by all this fuss. He would be quite conciliatory. "Come on, Leighton, much worse happened to me in my life-time. Remember Good Friday? Remember my torture and the abuse and the indifference that surrounded me when I was crucified? They do not know what they do. They do not know what they say. You know that!"

And, of course, I do. As the nation turns away from its Christian past it is not surprising that a growing number of our compatriots will know little of Christ, and even less about the notion of reverence and holiness. They do not know what they say.

However, some do!

As early as the seventeenth century there has been, in certain quarters, a sophisticated contempt for 'the name' and for Christian values. A German theologian and philosopher

(Friedrich Schleiermacher) devised an apologia, or defence, against the onslaught of (what he called) "the cultured despisers of Christianity." Their descendants are still with us in the UK as in other parts of the world, and we sometimes feel the rage of their antipathies in what we read and hear and see on television. Ironically – and it is worth stressing this point – it is the 'fence-work' of our modern, secular society that prevents the further free-fall of anti-Christian invasion. For that we must be grateful.

In our Christian calendar we have a day to honour 'The Name of Jesus.' It is tucked away on 1<sup>st</sup> January when most of us have other things on our mind.

What's in a name? Well, in this particular case, the answer is "everything." The Name celebrates the blessed identity of Jesus; who he is and what God in Christ has done for us. His Name frequently introduces and concludes our daily prayers. His Name represents the whole drama of our creation from our birth to our death; our alienation and redemption, our fallibility and our deepest longings for acceptance and salvation. He is our vision, our hope and our end. As usual, Paul sums it up, beautifully:

Therefore God exalted him to the highest place  
and gave him the name that is above every name,  
that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,  
in heaven and on earth and under the earth,  
and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord,  
to the glory of God the Father. (*Philippians 2: 9-11*)



Leighton Thomas



### St Mary's Harvest Lunch

This year's Harvest Lunch will be held in the Morrell Room, after the Harvest Festival Service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October, at 1pm. Tickets are available at £7.50, with children under 10 free of charge. Please bring your own wine etc. Numbers are limited, so sign up as soon as you are able; there are sheets in each of the churches. Further information, and offers of help and food to Marigold Jamieson on 872229. Everyone is most welcome!



John Rogers



### Harvest Festival on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October

You are invited to celebrate Harvest Festival on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October. Harvest services will take place at the usual times in all three churches.

We would welcome your gifts. At *St Mary's*, gifts of non-perishable food will be sent to the drop-in centre in Reading (CIRDIC). Gifts from *St Thomas'* will go to the foodbank in Wallingford. (They are short of long-life semi-skimmed milk, long life fruit juice, instant coffee, tinned spaghetti, tinned corned beef and ham, and tinned fruit at the moment so would be particularly grateful for these. They have plenty of baked beans, tinned tomatoes and packets of pasta however.) At *St Andrew's* the gifts will be distributed locally.

Thank you for your generosity and for your gifts throughout the year. All three churches now have boxes for regular collections for the homeless or local foodbanks.



Wendy Middleton



### Come and Sing Evensong

All singers are welcome to join us for a *Come and Sing* Evensong Service on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> October at 4pm in St Thomas' Church. We will be singing Brewer's *Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis in D*, *Ayleward Responses*, Bullock's *Give us the wings of faith* and SS Wesley's *Blessed be the God and Father*; our Musical Director is Michael Howell with organist Bryan Almond.

There will be a choir practice on the day starting at 2pm (arrive at 1.45pm latest to sort out music). There will also be earlier, optional, choir practices from 7.00pm to 7.45pm on Friday 16<sup>th</sup> September, Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and from 7pm to 8.30pm on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> September.



Elizabeth Parkinson, 872020 or [parkinsonfamily1@btinternet.com](mailto:parkinsonfamily1@btinternet.com)



### Starlight 2016

Starlight has made the dreams of many seriously and terminally ill children come true, giving them something exciting to look forward to and to remember with pleasure, helping to distract them from the hours of gruelling treatment for cancer and other life threatening illnesses. The Charity works hard to grant those wishes, which have included visits to Disney World, to Seattle to watch American football and, for one eight year-old, a trip to Rome to meet the Pope.

Starlight receives no funding from government or other sources, relying entirely on public donations. So your generous donation to the special collection on 2<sup>nd</sup> October would be greatly appreciated.



Norma Bryant



### Dorchester Archdeaconry Welcome Service for Bishop Steven, the new Bishop of Oxford

This will take place at 3:30pm on Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> October in Dorchester Abbey. No tickets are required, and refreshments will be available after the service.

For those who with limited mobility attending the service, contact Dorchester Abbey in advance at [events@dorchester-abbey.org.uk](mailto:events@dorchester-abbey.org.uk) or by phoning 01865 340007 so that appropriate provision can be made for parking and for seating inside the Abbey.



### Goring Chamber Choir presents "Classically Autumn"

Goring Chamber Choir will present their latest concert *Classically Autumn* at 7:30pm in St Thomas' Church, Goring on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2016. The programme will include Mozart's *Dixit Dominus* and *Magnificat* K193 with string trio, Haydn's *Insanae et vanae curae*, operatic arias, and Mozart's *Fantasy in D minor* K397 with piano solo by Olivia Canolle. Tickets £12 and £10 from Inspirations in Goring, from a choir member, or on the door. <http://www.goringchamberchoir.org.uk/>



Graeme Pearce

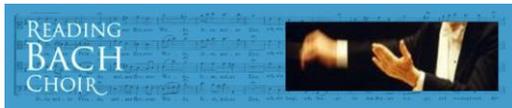


### United Benefice Service on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October

As we continue our series following David Watson's book *Discipleship*, it is good to welcome Colin Smith, the Dean of Mission at the Church Mission Society (CMS) to our United Benefice Service in St Thomas', Goring on Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> October at 10:30am.

During the series, we have been thinking about being a disciple, making disciples and sharing the Gospel, so it is good to stop, pause and hear from Colin, who spends a lot of his time helping people prepare for mission service overseas. Through CMS, he is also involved in training Pioneer leaders in the UK. He had previously served as a CMS mission partner in Nairobi, where he was director of the Centre for Urban Mission and part of the staff team of a small church in Kibera. Prior to Kenya, Colin worked for 10 years in two parishes in inner London. He now lives in Banbury where his wife, Anita, is a vicar. He also has the great misfortune of being a Leeds United supporter.

 Steve Johnson, Curate



### Reading Bach Choir: Arise my love – Music from the Song of Songs

The Reading Bach Choir and their musical director Matthew Hamilton are delighted to be opening their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary season at St Thomas' Church in Goring, at 7:30pm on Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> November.

This concert is a fascinating look at some of the most vividly sensuous and erotic poetry ever written. Found in the Old Testament *Song of Solomon*, composers over the centuries have been inspired to set these words to music, and the Reading Bach Choir brings a selection of these settings. Tickets are £12 full, £10 concessions, £8 students and 16-18s, and £5 under 16s. Email [tickets@readingbachchoir.org.uk](mailto:tickets@readingbachchoir.org.uk), phone 0118 947 8097, or go to <http://www.wegotickets.com/> (booking fees apply). Further details at <http://www.readingbachchoir.org.uk/>

 Daphne Rowbottom, Reading Bach Choir Publicity

### Fellowship of St Birinus

Birinus was the first Bishop of Dorchester from 634 to 639. The Bishop of Dorchester founded the Fellowship, with the support of the Rector of Dorchester Abbey, as a modest way in which to honour the people who have given exceptional service in some way or other to their church and community over a number of years.

This year Sally Stroud was invited to join the Fellowship and was given her certificate and lapel badge at a special service of choral evensong in Dorchester Abbey on Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

 Brenda Kerr Muir, Churchwarden





### Adopt a Grave!

Do you have the odd half hour when you could help tidy the churchyard? At St Thomas' the churchyard is managed in a way which encourages wildlife and a diversity of plants to flourish – the Living Churchyard project. We are very grateful to Myrna Anderson and her team of mowers who are achieving this very successfully.

It has been suggested however that some of the graves look a bit sad and that maybe one or two church members might like to take on tending them. Of course this could be done at any time, but it could be much more fun to come along on the last Saturday morning of the month when Myrna usually "potters around" the churchyard and there is coffee and cake as well! This type of project could also suit a young person working towards a Duke of Edinburgh Award. If you think this might be something you would like to do, then please talk to Myrna or one of the Wardens.



Brenda Kerr Muir, Churchwarden



### Magnificent organ music in St Mary's!

On Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> September, the Church of St Mary's in Streatley hosted an Organ Recital which was performed by our very own Musical Director, Michael Howell; an event which was well attended and which amongst many other things, served to raise funds for the upkeep of our beautiful local church.

The main works were JS Bach's magnificent *Prelude and Fugue in B minor* and Vivaldi's very lively and enchanting *Concerto in G Major*. The supporting works included Couperin's emotional *Kyries* in the *Movements from the Organ Masses*, Festing's Scottish-influenced *Largo, Allegro, Aria and Two Variations*, Brahms very moving chorale preludes written on his return from Clara

Schumann's funeral and the beautiful and moving *Consolation in D flat* by Liszt. The concert opened with the light *Toccata in C* by Bach and ended with the splendid *March on a theme by Handel* by Guilmant.

Each section was expertly introduced by Michael Howell who shared his vast musical knowledge in detail, including the development of organs and the difference between those played in France and Germany as well as information about the pieces being played. This was punctuated with some light humour that served to enliven a divine musical evening.



Stella

United Benefice of  
 Goring & Streatley  
 with South Stoke

**Benefice Calendar - October 2016**

			<u>Goring</u>	<u>Streatley</u>	<u>South Stoke</u>
<b>Su. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Trinity 19	Holy Communion (Harvest Service @ 11.15)	8.00	11.15	
		Harvest Family Service	9.30		11.15
		Harvest Lunch @ The Morrell Room, 1pm, please sign up beforehand. Tickets £7.50 each			
		Come & Sing Evensong	16.00		
		Discoverers	17.00		
<b>Tu. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	South Stoke Prayer Meeting @ 14.30, Crossways				
<b>We. 5<sup>th</sup></b>	Midweek Holy Communion followed by coffee		10.30		
<b>Su. 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Trinity 20	Holy Communion		8.00	
		Holy Communion with the Revd Canon Dr Edmund Newey, Sub-Dean of Christ Church Cathedral, Oxford	9.30		11.15
		Welcome for the Rt Revd Dr Steven Croft as Bishop of Oxford, 15.30 @ Dorchester Abbey, everyone welcome			
<b>We. 12<sup>th</sup></b>	Midweek Holy Communion		10.30		
<b>Su. 16<sup>th</sup></b>	Trinity 21	Holy Communion	8.00	11.15	
		Good News Service	9.30		
		Mattins			11.15
		Discoverers	17.00		
<b>Mo. 17<sup>th</sup></b>	Mum's Out Tonight @ 8pm, 18 Wallingford Road, Goring				
<b>We. 19<sup>th</sup></b>	Midweek Holy Communion		10.30		
	South Stoke Coffee Morning				10.30
<b>Th..20<sup>th</sup></b>	Pick a Flick & lunch showing 'Educating Rita'		10.30		
<b>Su. 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Last after Trinity	Holy Communion	9.30	8.00	11.15
		Mattins		11.15	
		Janet Pound Piano Recital: "Autumn Serenade", followed by tea in the Morrell Room, £5 tickets, £4 concessions from Inspirations and on door in aid of FoSM		16.00	
<b>We. 26<sup>th</sup></b>	Midweek Holy Communion		10.30		
<b>Fri. 28<sup>th</sup></b>	Come on Board Scrabble in the Canterbury Room		15.00		
<b>Sa. 29<sup>th</sup></b>	Coffee & Cake in the Canterbury Room		10.30		
<b>Su. 30<sup>th</sup></b>	All Saints Sunday	Holy Communion	8.00		
		United Benefice Service	10.30		
		All Saints Service for the bereaved		16.00	
		Discoverers	17.00		

**Morning Prayer:** South Stoke @ 9.30am every Friday, Goring @ 9.15am on 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> September

**St. Mary's Congregation to join with St. Andrew's Congregation at 11.15am on Sun. 9<sup>th</sup> October**

**There won't be a Stillness Service this month** due to Welcome of Bishop Steven at Dorchester Abbey