



# 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

May 2017 – 38<sup>th</sup> edition

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Price per printed copy

## • Welcome to the thirty-eighth 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.

## • Easter events around the Benefice



Palm Sunday at St Mary's included a procession from the church to the Bull crossroads, accompanied by two donkeys named George and Daisey.

On Good Friday, Steve Johnson conducted a service at Goring Lock.



Photos by Adrian Turner



### **Pastoral Letter: Take heart!**

The last year seems to have been full of shocks. First came the referendum result with the decision to leave the EU, which even surprised many who voted for Brexit. Next there were the elections in the United States with the unexpected victory of Donald Trump and all that ensued, especially his decision to bomb a Syrian air base, and shake his fist at Kim Jong-un. Then came more terrorist attacks in Europe and, nearer to home, the attack in Westminster, the heart of our government. As I write this, our French neighbours are reeling from another attack in Paris, just before they go to the polls, and we are looking at a snap election in June! Changes are coming thick and fast and many of us are seriously alarmed about where the world is heading. "What next?" one wonders, with more than a little trepidation.

How are we, as Christians, to react? What should be our attitude to what is happening in the world?

Almost two thousand years ago, when Jesus warned his disciples that their world was about to be turned upside down, he said:

"I have told you these things so that in me you may have peace.  
In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have  
overcome the world." John 16: 33

Jesus didn't say things would be easy. Quite the opposite; he said they would have trouble. But he assured them that ultimately they would share in his victory over sin, the world and the Devil. He had already shown them that he had power over the elements when he stilled the storm, over sickness when he healed the sick, and over death when he raised Lazarus. Soon he would defeat the powers of darkness by his death and resurrection and institute a new world order. The disciples' task would be to spread the word.

And it's the same for us today. As followers of Jesus, we should take heart because the forces of chaos and evil will not have the last word. God's kingdom will come eventually so we should approach the future with confidence, however bleak it may look, knowing that if we obey Jesus' command to tell his story we will be playing our part in bringing nearer the day when he will come again and make all things new.



Judith Aguda, Licensed Lay Minister

United Benefice of  
Goring & Streatley  
with South Stoke



## Benefice Calendar - May 2017

			Goring	Streatley	South Stoke
Mo. 1 <sup>st</sup>		Adventure+ canoeists breakfast	8:00		
Tu. 2 <sup>nd</sup>		South Stoke Prayer meeting 2.30pm @ Crossways			
We. 3 <sup>rd</sup>		Midweek Holy Communion and coffee	10.30		
Su. 7 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 4	Holy Communion	8.00	11.15	
		Family Service	9.30		11.15
		Baptism	11:15		
		Evening Prayer, BCP	16.00		
		Discoverers	17:00		
We. 10 <sup>th</sup>		Midweek Holy Communion	10.30		
Su. 14 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 5	Holy Communion	9.30	8.00 11.15	11.15
		Baptism			12:30
		Christian Aid Service		17.00	
Mo. 15 <sup>th</sup>		Christian Aid Lunch 12 noon @ Oriel House, Thames Rd, all welcome!			
We. 17 <sup>th</sup>		Midweek Holy Communion	10.30		
		South Stoke Coffee Morning			10.30
Th. 18 <sup>th</sup>		Pick-a-Flick & Lunch showing 'Driving Miss Daisy'	10.00		
Sa. 20 <sup>th</sup>		Concert – Midori Komachi & Sophie Rosa, violinists		19:30	
Su. 21 <sup>st</sup>	Easter 6	Holy Communion	8.00	11.15	
		Good News Service	9.30		
		Matins			11:15
		Discoverers	17:00		
Mo. 22 <sup>nd</sup>		Mum's Out Tonight 8pm, 18 Wallingford Road, Goring			
We. 24 <sup>th</sup>		Midweek Holy Communion	10.30		
Th. 25 <sup>th</sup>		"Thy Kingdom Come" week begins			
		<b>Ascension Day</b> Holy Communion	20:00		
Fr. 26 <sup>th</sup>		Come on Board Scrabble (Canterbury Room)	15:00		
Sa. 27 <sup>th</sup>		Coffee & Cake (Canterbury Room)	10:30		
Su. 28 <sup>th</sup>	Easter 7	Holy Communion	9.30	8.00 11.15	11.15
		Matins			
We. 31 <sup>st</sup>		Midweek Holy Communion	10.30		

**Morning Prayer:** South Stoke @ 9.30am every Friday; Goring @ 9.15am on 5<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May.  
The ministry team pray the service of Morning Prayer together three times each week on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays at 8am during term time and 8:30am during school holidays.

**Christian Aid Week:** 14<sup>th</sup> – 20<sup>th</sup> May