

# The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friends

We have recently celebrated the feast of Pentecost with the imagery of fire and wind. We have a picture of the Holy Spirit as a power known to us only by its effects, by what it does. It is not personal. God to us and God with us must be completed by God in us. In order to see this we must turn to the Old Testament and the experience of Elijah on Horeb. When wind and fire and earthquake tore at the foundations of the hills it was awe inspiring and dreadful, but the Lord God was in none of them. Then after the fire came the still, small voice – a sound of gentle stillness. Wind and fire and earthquake are signs of power. God does them, but is not in them. God communicates with us in rational speech. The spectacular, as on the mountain, as at the resurrection and at Pentecost may shake us out of our complacency, but it has to give way to the personal.

It is as person to person that God speaks to our inner self and makes Himself known and it is through this that we come to understand what has happened to us and realise the love that lies at the heart of God, reaching out for the loving response of our own hearts. We know God through the Spirit moving in us. So, as we celebrate Pentecost, let us not be disheartened if we feel that we do not see God working in remarkable ways. Instead, let us listen for the still, small voice and the small gifts and experiences that make us realise that God is present in our lives.

With all good wishes,

Andrew

## **A WORD FROM OUR NEW CURATE**

My name is Thomas Pelham, and I am currently in the final few weeks of my time training at Cuddesdon, and looking forward, with my wife, Sarah, to moving to join you all in July.

I have been studying at Cuddesdon for nearly three years, first taking a BA in theology from Oxford, then a post graduate course on the Church of England's own training scheme for ordinands – those, like me, who are training and working towards ordination as Deacon, which in my case will be on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July in Salisbury Cathedral, 10:30am – if any of you wish to come and witness it you'd be very welcome!



Sarah and I were married at the end of last summer. We met on a cycle tour for bellringers – two hobbies which we are still very much involved in, cycling and church bellringing, both of which I started to enjoy during my first spell at university. Sarah hopes to continue working as a chartered management accountant following our relocation.

As well as cycling and bellringing, she enjoys walking and outdoor activities, especially power kite flying. We both share an interest in historical buildings, and especially like walking to explore them, and the countryside around them. She studied geography at the University of Sheffield, and continues to share her love and knowledge of this subject with me. We're particularly looking forward to exploring the Jurassic coast, where many of these interests coincide!

I attended the University of Bristol, where I studied Music, and later took a Masters in composition. Music has always been a large part of my life; before moving to begin my training, I was director of music and organist of a church in Wiltshire, and whilst I was at university, I enjoyed singing and directing a church choir near Bristol.

Really, my earliest memories of church are singing – my mother and I were both part of the church choir at st Mary’s Battersea, where I was a treble, and we still sing together on occasion, although I now sing tenor! My faith was nurtured in the choir, and tempered through my teens when I was involved in a youth church and played in a worship band. However, it was back to the Anglican choral tradition that I was drawn, and matured as a Christian. I have a deep love for sacred music, and my favourite composer (although this often changes depending on my mood) is either J.S.Bach or Olivier Messiaen, the 20<sup>th</sup> century French organ composer. For lighter entertainment, I enjoy most Jazz, and, mostly due to my Father’s perseverance and preference, anything with Peter Gabriel in it.

After university I worked for a year as a sound technician in a school, before using these skills as a studio assistant and editor for an audio book firm. There, I became interested in systems, and moved on to a post in Bath College as a database developer and analyst. However, all this time I was involved in the discerning process which leads towards ordained ministry, and I knew that I was truly called to serve in God’s Church, not just as a musician but as a minister.

As this draws nearer, I ask for your prayers and, later, support and patience! I am truly looking forward to meeting you all and working with you all to further God’s plan for the church of the Transfiguration, Canford Cliffs.

In the love of Christ,

Tom and Sarah

## **Columba of Iona (c. 521 -97) – missionary to the UK**

2013 marked the 1450th anniversary of the arrival of Christianity in the UK. It was brought by St Columba from Ireland to Iona – a tiny island off Mull, in the Western Highlands.

Columba was born in Donegal of the royal Ui Neill clan, and trained as a monk. He founded the monasteries of Derry (546), Durrow (c.556) and probably Kells. But in 565 Columba left Ireland with twelve companions for Iona, an island off southwest Scotland. Iona had been given to him for a monastery by the ruler of the Irish Dalriada.

Why would a monk in his mid-40s go into such voluntary exile? Various explanations include: voluntary exile for Christ, an attempt to help overseas compatriots in their struggle for survival, or even as some sort of punishment for his part in a row over a psalter in Ireland. Whatever the reason, Columba went to Iona and spent the rest of his life in Scotland, returning to Ireland only for occasional visits.

Columba's biographer, Adomnan, portrays him as a tall, striking figure of powerful build and impressive presence, who combined the skills of scholar, poet and ruler with a fearless commitment to God's cause. Able, ardent, and sometimes harsh, Columba seems to have mellowed with age.

As well as building his monastery on Iona, Columba also converted Brude, king of the Picts. Columba had great skill as a scribe, and an example of this can be seen in the Cathach of Columba, a late 6th century psalter in the Irish Academy, which is the oldest surviving example of Irish majuscule writing. In his later years Columba spent much

time transcribing books.

Columba's death was apparently foreseen by his community, and even, it seems, sensed by his favourite horse. He died in the church just before Matins, and it is a tribute to this man that his traditions were upheld by his followers for about a century, not least in the Synod of Whitby and in Irish monasteries on the continent of Europe.

Here is a prayer of St Columba:  
Christ With Us  
My dearest Lord,  
Be Thou a bright flame before me,  
Be Thou a guiding star above me,  
Be Thou a smooth path beneath me,  
Be Thou a kindly shepherd behind me,  
Today and evermore.

*Found in a Surrey country church*

*'Ere lies a poor woman who was always tired,  
She lived in a house where help wasn't hired:  
Her last words on earth were: "Dear friends, I am going  
To where there's no cooking, or washing, or sewing,  
For where they don't eat there's no washing of dishes.  
I'll be where loud anthems will always be ringing,  
But having no voice I'll be spared of the singing.  
Don't mourn for me now, don't mourn for me never,  
I am going to do nothing for ever and ever".*

## World Cup Fever



The former Liverpool Manager Bill Shankly famously said, 'Some people believe football is a matter of life and death, I am very disappointed with that attitude. I can assure you it is much, much more important than that!'

This month sees the start of the World Cup in Russia; a truly global event watched by billions on television. Yet this competition illustrates some key points about the Christian life. As Paul writes: 'But one thing I do: forgetting what is behind and straining towards what is ahead, I press on towards the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenwards in Christ Jesus.' (Philippians 3:13b,14).

A prize to be won: The dream of every player in the competition is to be able to hold up the World Cup themselves. For us the prize is the eternal life, God's gift of relationship with him for now and eternity through Jesus. But there's an important difference between football and the Christian faith. To win the World Cup you have to be good enough, while Christ's love for us is underserved and is not dependent on how well we've done.

Training to be undertaken: If a team is going to win the World Cup, they have to train hard beforehand. Our training, as Christians, starts the moment we accept the gift of God's life. On a daily basis, we train ourselves to say no to the wrong things in our lives. As we build up our godly muscles we are better able to choose to do what is right in God's eyes. To enable us to do all this we need to engage in the spiritual disciplines of prayer, studying the Bible and being part of a church and small group. How is your training going?

*The Rev'd Paul Hardingham*

## In praise of knitting

Knitting can be astonishingly good for you. This gentle hobby has been found to lower blood pressure, reduce depression, keep your mind alert, slow the onset of dementia, distracts from chronic pain (such as arthritis), boost wellbeing, and reduce loneliness.

A major study by the organisation Knit for Peace has found that knitting lowers the heart rate by an average of 11 beats per minute and induces 'an enhanced state of calm.' The repetitive movement also boosts calming serotonin, which lifts your mood and dulls any pain. Knitting also boosts the reward centres of the brain, because it allows people to feel that they can still make a contribution to society.



In Britain, where the NHS spends more than £2 billion each year on blood pressure treatments, around £300 million on antidepressants, and about £26 billion on dementia, and unknown billions on various chronic pain, perhaps more people should take up knitting. As one expert says: 'Research has shown that there is a growing crisis in primary care. As a skilled and creative occupation, knitting has therapeutic potential. There is an enormous amount of research showing that knitting has physical and mental health benefits.'

*Several people in our parish knit for Stitches of Hope. If you are interested in more information please contact Tessa Yeoman (Tel: 707629).*

## **Diary of a Momentous Year: June 1918**

An interesting piece from the archives of the Church Times a few weeks ago vividly illustrates the way the war on the western front changed in 1918. For years the Church Army, like the Salvation Army, had run what they called 'huts', close behind the trenches, where soldiers could find on their free time a meal and hot drinks, comfortable seats and company, offering emotional and spiritual support.

These 'huts' were very popular with the troops, and for years most of them remained in place, indicating how static the whole conflict was. But in one month, April 1918, the Church Army lost 57 of them, as German advances overtook their positions. In most cases the land was recaptured, but the huts needed rebuilding. The war had changed. It was no longer a static battle of soldiers with rifles and bayonets charging batteries of machine guns, but an increasingly fluid conflict involving tanks and aircraft.

Although at first the Allied generals were slow to recognise it, the new style of war suited them best. Over the years they had built a formidable war machine, involving thousands of tanks and tens of thousands of aircraft, with tactics to match. Not only that, but the arrival of the Americans in large numbers, added to the vast number of troops from the Empire (now the Commonwealth) meant that casualties could be replaced in the Allied ranks. The Germans and their Austro-Hungarian allies had no such source of fresh manpower, turning instead to younger and older men to fill the depleted ranks.

The German generals were aware of the situation, and desperate to make inroads before it was too late, in the hope of achieving a relatively 'neutral' peace agreement in due course. On June 9th the German General Ludendorff launched a major offensive in Flanders. Like so many, it

gained several miles, but cost many lives and eventually petered out.

There would be several more such attempts, some of which threatened to succeed, but in fact the eventual outcome was becoming clear. The German people were disillusioned with the Kaiser. Their troops were exhausted. The civilian population were restless. There would be, as we shall see, battles to come, but there would barely be time to rebuild those huts.

*The Rev'd Canon David Winter*

## SUMMER FETE: SATURDAY 4<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST

from 2.00 pm



- It's that time of year again and we are beginning to collect items for sale, raffling, eating, giving away etc. and generally preparing for a 'bumper' occasion! Paperback and hardback novels, good quality 'white elephant'(no electrical items) and 2<sup>nd</sup> hand clothing, toys, handbags, jewellery, the promise of cakes baked, good items for the raffle etc. will all - as usual - be required. If you can help in any way, particularly with clearing up at the end of the day, we would be very grateful. Details of who to contact for all such items will be in next month's JULY magazine, which will be on sale from *Thursday 21st June*. But in the meantime please contact Andrew (the Vicar) on 01202 700341 if you would like to contribute...in any way.



## CALENDAR FOR JUNE

Fri 1 10.30 am

***Coffee Morning in hall***

### **TRINITY 1**

Sun 3 8.00 am  
10.30 am  
6.00 pm

Holy Communion  
Parish Communion  
Evening Prayer

Wed 6 10.30 am

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*

Thurs 7 10.00 am

Parish Art Group

Fri 8 9.30 am

Baby Group *in hall*

### **TRINITY 2**

Sun 10 8.00 am  
10.30 am  
6.00 pm

Holy Communion  
Matins *(Sunday Club in hall)*  
Evening Prayer

Wed 13 10.30 am

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*

Fri 15 10.30 am

***Coffee Morning in hall***

### **TRINITY 3**

Sun 17 8.00 am  
9.30 am  
10.30 am  
6.00 pm

Holy Communion  
Family Service  
Parish Communion  
Choral Evensong

Wed 20 10.30 am

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*

Thurs 21 10.00 am

Parish Art Group

3.30 pm

Magazine collation

Fri 22 9.30 am Baby Group *in hall*

**TRINITY 4**

Sun 24 8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am Matins (*Sunday Club in hall*)  
6.00 pm Evening Prayer

Tues 26 10.00 am Craft Group *in hall*

Wed 27 10.30 am Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*

Fri 29 9.30 am Baby Group *in hall*

**JULY**

**TRINITY 5**

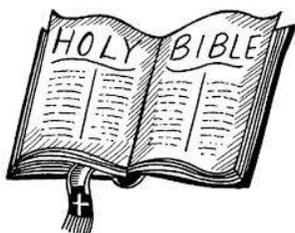
Sun 1 8.00 am Holy Communion  
10.30 am Ordination of Tom Pelham  
at Salisbury Cathedral. No  
service here.  
6.00 pm NO EVENING PRAYER

**All in the month of JUNE**

It was:

125 years ago, on 7th June 1893 that Mahatma Gandhi committed his first act of civil disobedience while working as a lawyer in South Africa. He refused to comply with racial segregation rules which prohibited coloured people from travelling first class on trains. He refused to leave a first-class carriage and was thrown off the train in Pietermaritzburg. (After protesting, he was allowed on the following day.)

90 years ago, on 14th June 1928, that Emmeline Pankhurst, British political activist died. She was leader of the British suffragette movement.



## **SUNDAY READINGS IN JUNE**

### **Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> June - Trinity 1**

OLD TESTAMENT: 1 Samuel 3.1-10,15-20

*God calls Samuel, but Samuel thinks it is Eli calling him who tells him to go back to sleep. Eli then recognises it is God who is calling Samuel.*

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Corinthians 4.5-12

*Paul describes the people of God as treasure in jars of clay. We are hard pressed but not crushed, perplexed, but not in despair.*

GOSPEL: Mark 2.23-3.6

*The pharisees are annoyed that Jesus is not following the rules of the Sabbath. In this passage his disciples pick corn and Jesus heals the man with a shrivelled hand.*

### **Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> June - Trinity 2**

OLD TESTAMENT: 1 Samuel 8.4-11,16-20

*The elders of Israel go to Samuel who is now old and ask him to give them a king. Samuel warns them of what a king will do, but they refuse to listen.*

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 3.20-end

*The teachers of the law claim Jesus is possessed by Beelzebub. Jesus explains that a house divided against itself cannot stand.*

### **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> June - Trinity 3**

OLD TESTAMENT: 1 Samuel 15.34-16.13

*God is grieved that he had made Saul king over Israel and tells Samuel to go and annoint David as king.*

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Corinthians 5.6-10,14-17

*We live by faith, not by sight. If we live in Christ we are a new creation for God has made all things new.*

GOSPEL: Mark 4.26-34

*Jesus speaks in parables and here we have the parable of the growing seed and the parable of the mustard seed.*

### **Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> June - Trinity 4**

OLD TESTAMENT: 1 Samuel 17.32-49

*The contest between the heavily armed Goliath and the young virtually unarmed David appears unequal but God's strength and favour carries him to victory.*

NEW TESTAMENT: Mark 4.35-end

*The disciples are afraid of the power of Jesus – that he can calm wind and waves and save them from drowning.*

### **Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> July - Trinity 5**

*The Ordination of Tom Pelham as deacon in Salisbury Cathedral.*



## Team Rector of Swanage and Studland recognised for ecumenical work while Dean of Belfast



A Dorset rector has been awarded the Lambeth Cross by Archbishop Justin Welby for his work in bringing Christian churches together. The Revd John Mann, Team Rector of Swanage and

Studland, was given the award for ecumenical work carried out while he was Dean of Belfast from 2011 until 2017, when he moved to this Diocese to take up his current post. The Award Citation reads as follows:

*The Lambeth Cross which has been awarded to former Dean of Belfast John Mann.*

*The Very Reverend John Mann – The Lambeth Cross for Ecumenism, for courageous and visionary leadership which affirmed diversity, fostered healing and made Belfast Cathedral a place of welcome as a sacred, civic space at the heart of a divided city.*

“It was a big surprise to receive the award”, John says, “I hadn’t the slightest idea until a letter popped through the door in January.

“I came to Swanage last September and before that I didn’t know this area at all well. We’ve come to love it very quickly. People have been incredibly welcoming.

“It is a very big move, though. The setup in the Church of England is very different, with it being the established Church, and effectively the default place where everyone comes unless they have a reason to worship somewhere else. The Church of Ireland, is only one of four main

churches in Northern Ireland, and parish clergy are seen much more as serving a particular congregation.

"A large part of my ministry has been about working with a Roman Catholic community that is both large numerically and strong in terms of organisation. It's very different in Dorset; although our local Roman Catholic Church is thriving it's on a much smaller scale in comparison with what I've grown used to in Belfast.

"There are also some practical differences in terms of the administration one needs to carry out as a parish priest. For example, marriage law changed dramatically in Northern Ireland 15 years ago and is now very different to what exists in England.

"Interestingly, though neither my wife, Helen, or I are from Northern Ireland originally. She is from the Isle of Man, and I grew up in London. I first went to Belfast in 1973 as an undergraduate, but then most of our adult lives were spent in and around Belfast. I did spend four years in the Diocese of Winchester around 25 years ago.

"I've found not only the people in Swanage but also my colleagues in the Diocese to be very warm and supportive and encouraging, which has helped make it a pleasant transition."

The citation for the Lambeth Award continued:

John Mann's six-year tenure as Dean of Belfast was marked by building relationships and fostering a sense of community within the regular congregation.

In 2017 he installed the first Roman Catholic priest as an ecumenical canon, alongside previously installed Presbyterian and Methodist ministers. The Choir School initiative was his vision, in partnership with three north Belfast schools (one Protestant, one Catholic and one integrated). The cathedral music department takes responsibility for teaching music in the schools and identifies boys and girls who are then trained to sing the

services in the choirs of the Cathedral. They attend practice in the context of an after-school homework club.

Belfast Cathedral became a focus for civic events and as a sacred civic space benefited from the patience, grace and leadership of John Mann. He worked tirelessly with other religious leaders in the city and made a profound contribution to the civic understanding and acceptance of the concept of a Cathedral Quarter, a significant part of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century regeneration of Belfast, and ensuring that the Cathedral remains at its heart.

In his last three years there were congregations of between 800 and 1000 for Evensong and Compline on 'Culture Night', an evening of free arts events in September, and thousands more visited the cathedral. Guided tours and school visits became regular daily features, so too, for the first time, the daily offices. Over his tenure as dean John Mann raised over a million pounds for local charities through his pre-Christmas (Black Santa) sit-out for charity. In February 2017, at the Good Samaritan Service, the Dean distributed £230,000 – the largest sum raised to date, passing the target by some £30,000.

Christians from Africa, the Far East and the UK were among the recipients of the 2018 Lambeth Awards presented by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Awards, launched by Archbishop Welby in 2016, recognise outstanding service in different fields, including those of the Archbishop's ministry priorities of prayer and the Religious life; reconciliation and peacebuilding; and evangelism and witness.

## **Church Crawl – The Piddle Valley**

The Friends of Dorset Historic Churches Trust church met on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> May for the first crawl of the season, taking in churches at Piddletrenthide, Piddlehinton as well as Alton Pancras and Buckland Newton.

All Saints Piddletrenthide is a very pretty 14<sup>th</sup> century church restored in the 19<sup>th</sup> century by John Hicks. Thomas Hardy was a pupil of his and enjoyed walking up the steps to the tower. John Bridge, silversmith to George IV, provided the funds for the



restoration. Our attention was drawn to three stained glass windows by William Wailes and two by Clayton and Bell, one of which is a memorial to Gerald Pollard who was killed during the Gallipoli landings in World War I. We were treated to a fascinating short talk by Bin Roy, a local historian, about the Gallipoli campaign and Gerald Pollard's part in it.

It is written in the guidebooklet that the setting of St Mary the Virgin, Piddlehinton, with magnificent old beech, lime and yew trees in the churchyard, is one of beauty and peace. This is certainly true. The church was dedicated in 1299 but of the original building only the west arch under the tower remains. The tower itself contains a peal of bells. A notice in the south transept says "A peal was rung at Piddlehinton on Christmas morning 1820, 4 hours and 2 minutes". The tower is beautifully decorated and well preserved on which there are some fine gargoyles with gaping mouths, used for projecting rainwater away from the walls. Lawrence Boyce of Puddletown constructed the turret clock on display at the back of the church in 1730. There were no hands or dial, the hours being struck by the

bell. The lovely east window was installed in 1845 and is by E R Suffling of London and depicts The Good Shepherd, St Peter and St Mary the Virgin.

Following lunch at the Thimble Inn, the highlight of which was a delicious lemon meringue pie, we made our way to the parish church of Alton St Pancras which was almost completely rebuilt in the 1870s, only the 15<sup>th</sup> century tower remaining of the old structure. On the chancel steps is placed one of the church's most treasured possessions: a nine-light medieval cresset stone. The hollows in this egg box-like object were filled with oil and a wick floated thereon, thus providing a primitive form of artificial light. Of great artistic distinction are two memorial windows to members of the Saunders family, owners of nearby Alton Manor, by the modern designer in stained glass, Leonard Evetts. One of these, the west window, installed in 1956, depicts St Francis preaching to pretty coloured birds, many of those shown being native to Dorset.

Our final visit was to The Church of the Holy Rood, Buckland Newton, rood meaning cross. It dates back to the 13<sup>th</sup> century and has had major restoration work in the 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, culminating in the renovation of the spectacular organ and placing it on a gallery in the west end of the nave. In the report of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments it is noted that "The most notable 13<sup>th</sup> century building in central Dorset is the chancel of Buckland Newton which although restored is sophisticated work for a village church". In the 1878 restoration new pews were made incorporating the 15<sup>th</sup> century oak bench ends. A brass plate on the west wall commemorates Thomas Barnes who was a 17<sup>th</sup> century ancestor of the Dorset poet William Barnes who attended the reopening of the church in 1878. Over the door is set what is perhaps the oldest piece of stone carving in this area – Saxon 7<sup>th</sup> or 8<sup>th</sup> century. It was found in the garden of the Vicarage in 1926 and may be

secular rather than religious although it has been suggested it represents St Thomas holding his symbol of a spear. There are six bells in the tower and the clock was bought for the Diamond Jubilee of Queen Victoria when it cost £120. The west window by Kempe under the tower depicts St Gabriel, St Michael and St Raphael in memory of Canon Ravenhill who directed the 1878 restoration. At this time the outside walls were rendered as a precaution against inclement weather and this rendering was replaced in the late 20<sup>th</sup> century on the advice of the Diocesan Advisory Committee for the Care of Churches and is a notable feature of the church today.

So ended another very successful crawl and thanks must go to Sue Smith for organising it and talking about the stained glass windows and Tim Connor for imparting his knowledge of church architecture in such an interesting and entertaining way.

*Nina Crane*

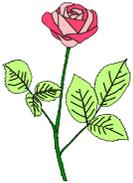


## **FROM THE REGISTERS**

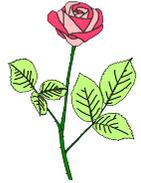
### **Funerals**

31st May      Diana Hill

## **ALTAR FLOWERS**



Sunday 3 <sup>rd</sup> June	Rozanne Parsons
Sunday 10 <sup>th</sup> June	Rozanne Parsons
Sunday 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Susanne King
Sunday 24 <sup>th</sup> June	Susanne King



## **MAGAZINE DEADLINE**

The deadline for the July edition of the  
Church Magazine is  
**Friday 15<sup>th</sup> June**