

The Vicar Writes...

Dear Friends

Jesus says, 'Do good to those who hate you, Bless those who curse you. Pray for those who ill-treat you'. It seems impossible to do this, but it isn't if we pray for God's help to empower us to obey him. He would never tell us to do anything that was impossible. Perhaps not many of us have enemies and perhaps the crunch comes for us in ordinary everyday living as we receive snubs, hurts, disappointments in our attempt to live like Christ. It will always be a struggle to get rid of our natural reaction which is to return hurt for hurt, injury for injury; but never has it been more obvious than today that when that happens, when revenge is taken for evils done then violence escalates, killings follow on killings, involving innocent victims and diminishing any hope of peace.

This is when Christ's way stands unique - with his command to forgive and it is only as we each practice this in our own lives that God's kingdom of love can spread into a world so full of division and hatred.

The test as to whether our commitment to Jesus is genuine comes when we are faced with harsh treatment, whether from inside the family, from friends or neighbours or from comparative strangers. Do we react in the world's way or do we pray as Jesus did: 'Father, forgive them' and refrain from retaliation and instead continue to be loving and tolerant? Every time we win through by not retaliating, we share in a small way in the resurrection through the Cross - we walk through the pain and come out into the light, into the joy of the Lord's presence.

With all good wishes
Andrew

DHCT June Church Crawl

The week of the June church crawl turned out to be one of the rainiest of the summer so far but luckily June 12th was sandwiched in between the wet days and was fairly dry. The five churches earmarked for our visit are situated north of Blandford Forum off the Salisbury Road and we had a pleasant drive taking in Sturminster Marshal, Spetisbury and Charlton Marshal before arriving at our destination right in the heart of the Dorset countryside.

St Peter ad Vincula Church in Tollard Royal dates from the 14th century but has been altered extensively over time. Very few churches in England are dedicated to St Peter ad Vincula (St Peter in Chains). One of them is in the Tower of London. All the walls were originally covered with paintings. Traces were found on the south wall in 1961 but were too damaged to restore. Of note inside the church is the effigy of Sir William Payne, a 14th century knight, depicted wearing chain mail who came from Lulworth. Other notable monuments are those to Augustus Pitt-Rivers, an expert in antiquities, and Alice Arbuthnot, daughter of George Pitt-Rivers, 4th Baron Rivers of Sudeley Castle, who was killed by lightning on her honeymoon climbing the Schildhorn in 1865. The cross which marked the place where she died hangs in the church. The colourful stained glass window above the altar is by E W Horwood and has been restored in memory of Michael Augustus Lane Fox Pitt-Rivers. Another colourful window, by Bertoni of Milan consists of enamel painting on plain glass. Rupert Brown, a local craftsman, made the smooth to touch candlesticks and altar cross from fiddleback sycamore.

Our next visit was to St Laurence's Church, Farnham dates from medieval times but very little survives of the original church. The Incorporated Church Building Society expanded the seating accommodation and extended the

chancel. There is a notable window made by Arthur Dix in 1922 in memory of Annie Adams who died in 1916.

Our last port of call before lunch was to the Chapel of St Andrew at Gussage St Andrew dating from the 12th century which is on the site of a Roman villa. The church is famous for its wall paintings dating from the 13th century with text added later in the 17th century. These paintings, which are of national importance, had been whitewashed over and were only rediscovered by chance in 1951 when the walls were being prepared for replastering. The paintings depict scenes leading up to the crucifixion. We then had a lovely lunch in the garden of Sue Smith's cottage in Minchington to which we all contributed items of food.

After lunch we made our way to St Mary's Sixpenny Handley which was the work of George Crickmayne in the late 19th century with Arts and Crafts decorations on the walls and stained glass windows by Powell and Sons dating from 1901. The vicar was very keen to tell us that the elaborate candlesticks on the altar disappeared from the church and were discovered in a church in Harold Hill and brought back to St Mary's. The tryptic behind the altar is a feature of high church and depicts the Madonna.



Our final visit was to St Rumbolds, Pentridge which has served Pentridge and neighbouring Woodyates since the Domesday Book. It was rebuilt in 1855 by Slater. There are only six churches dedicated to St Rumbold who was a Celtic missionary born in the 7th century in Northamptonshire. Of note were the stained glass windows by Clayton and Bell and a memorial to the great grandfather of Robert Browning, the poet who owned the Woodyates Inn. As usual we finished off the day with a most welcome up of tea in the churchyard.

Nina Crane

Ethelwold – the Wessex saint who founded the first monastic cathedral

(1st August)

St Ethelwold (c.912 – 84) did great things for the church at Winchester, which in those days was the principle town of Wessex. He began as a simple monk, eager to restore the Rule of Benedictine in England, a major reform for the church of the time. So, after serving at the abbey in Glastonbury, he was sent on to restore the old abbey at Abingdon. The king thought highly of him, and used him to teach his son, the future king, Edgar.

When in 963 Ethelwold became Bishop of Winchester, he replaced the cathedral canons with monks, thus founding the first monastic cathedral in the land. This was a uniquely English institution, which remained until the Reformation. The monastic reform quickly gained momentum: with the King's support, Ethelwold restored old monasteries such as Milton (Dorset), New Minster and Nunnaminster in Winchester, while new monasteries were founded and richly endowed at Peterborough (966), Ely (970) and Thorney (972).

Ethelwold was austere, able and dynamic. Under his leadership, the monks excelled at music, illumination and writing. When Ethelwold set the monks to work with the masons in the cathedral at Winchester, he built the most powerful organ of its time in England: it was played by two monks, and had 400 pipes and 36 bellows. In music, Ethelwold's Winchester had the distinction of producing the first English polyphony in the Winchester Troper.

Ethelwold's monasteries also produced a surpassing new style of illumination, and his school of vernacular writing was the most important of its time: with accurate, linguistically significant translations. A major event of his episcopate was the consecration of Winchester Cathedral in 980.

9/11 – 18 years on

Back in 2002, one year on from 9/11, the then Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Rowan Williams, reflected on the terrible attack.

'For myself, the view of the skyline of New York from a plane is one of the most majestic I have ever seen.

Dominating it until 9/11 2001 were, of course, the twin towers of the World Trade Centre. The shattering attack on those soaring symbols of Western capitalism on 11th September 2001 not only altered radically the skyline of New York, it also made us more aware than we have ever been of our vulnerability to sudden and unpredictable change.



Jesus makes of the skyline an unusual metaphor for belief and behaviour. His followers should not be motivated by defensive and self-protective concerns, but rather should be like a shining city whose bright lights are clearly visible in the darkness for miles around. 'You are the light of the world' Christ had already told his followers. They were not to hide the truth, but rather to bear confident witness to it. The terrible events on 11th September 2001 impacted on both the physical landscape of Manhattan, and upon the landscape of the human spirit. But we Christians in the West must not lose our nerve. In times of darkness, the light must shine forth brightly.

I have become more convinced than ever of the durability of the Christian faith and its deep relevance to life today. Christianity is flourishing in every corner of the world, people of all ages and all backgrounds continue to be inspired by Jesus Christ and to answer His call.

They certainly did so in New York in the immediate aftermath of the September 11th.

A short distance from where the Twin Towers once dominated the Manhattan skyline stands St Paul's Chapel. It is one of the oldest churches in New York; George Washington used to worship there over 200 years ago. Although the chapel was covered in a dense pall of dust and smoke on 11th September, it escaped the devastation virtually unscathed. Its' remarkable survival has made it a special place of pilgrimage.

It also served as a centre for fire fighters and emergency teams, with volunteers providing meals round the clock and a rudimentary place to rest on sleeping bags or on camp beds. It has been above all a place of support and sanctuary, a tangible sign of God's presence when 'tower and temple fall to dust.'

As the witness and example of St Paul's Chapel in New York reminds us so powerfully, the Church must continue to strive to live out its mission as a 'city set on a hill'. It has to remind us that no amount of change, no matter how frightening or painful it may be, can separate us from the love of God. For, it also points us towards that heavenly city, where the skyline will be eternal and indestructible. In the words of the hymn:

*City of God, how broad and far
Outspread thy walls sublime...
In vain the surge's angry shock,
In vain the drifting sands;
Unharm'd upon the eternal Rock
The eternal city stands.*

The Transfiguration – seeing Jesus as He is

The title of Bob Geldof's autobiography, 'Is That It?', will resonate with us, when we're looking for more in life. On a deeper level, we want to see and hear more clearly what God is doing in our circumstances. Jesus' transfiguration, which we remember this month, helps us to consider this (Luke 9:28-36).

Jesus was transfigured alongside Moses and Elijah, 'As He was praying, the appearance of His face changed, and His clothes became as bright as a flash of lightning.' (29). To understand our circumstances, firstly we need to see Jesus as God wants us to see Him. The disciples' eyes were opened to see Jesus' divinity. The presence of Moses and Elijah confirmed Him as God's promised Messiah. By foreshadowing the resurrection, this event powerfully calls us to entrust our lives into Jesus' hands to experience His presence and power.

Secondly, if we are to make sense of our circumstances, we need to hear what God says about His Son. A cloud covered them and 'a voice came from the cloud, saying, 'This is my Son, whom I have chosen; listen to Him.'" (35). God affirmed His love and call on Jesus as His beloved and chosen Son. Do we hear God speaking these same words to us? When we know that we too are loved and accepted by God, this transforms our understanding of our lives.

Whatever our circumstances, they can be transformed by what we see and hear. Open your eyes to see a transfigured world. Open your ears to hear a transfiguring voice. Open your heart to become a transfigured life.

'Christians should see more clearly, because we have seen Jesus. We are people whose vision has been challenged and corrected, so that we can see the world as it properly is.' (Justin Welby).

The Rev'd Paul Hardingham

Ride+Stride:

for churches

Saturday 14th September

R+S is a national event which takes place every year on the second Saturday in September to raise money for the maintenance of our treasured churches across the whole country. Last year Dorset's Riders and Striders raised a record £89,657 in sponsorship. This magnificent effort shows that R+S in Dorset is a real success story, which is going from strength to strength.

Please sponsor one of our riders and striders when they approach you over the next few weeks and tick gift aid on the form if you are able. As a thank you for supporting the work of the Trust, DHCT will return half of your money to our own parish.

If you would like to take part please ask me for a sponsorship form and list of churches that will be open throughout the county to help planning your route.

Graham Luker Parish Organiser
T 01202 723305





CALENDAR FOR AUGUST

Thurs 1 10.00 am
 Sat 3 2.00 pm

Parish Art Group
SUMMER FETE

PATRONAL FESTIVAL

Sun 4 8.00 am
 10.30 am
 6.00 pm

Holy Communion
 Parish Communion and
 Baptisms
 Evening Prayer

Wed 7 10.30 am
 Fri 9 9.30 am

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*
 Baby Group

TRINITY 8

Sun 11 8.00 am
 10.30 am
 6.00 pm

Holy Communion
 Matins
 Evening Prayer

Wed 14 10.30 am
 12.30 pm

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*
POST-FETE LUNCH *in hall*

TRINITY 9

Sun 18 8.00 am
 10.30 am
 6.00 pm

Holy Communion
 Parish Communion
 Evening Prayer

Wed 21 10.30 am
 Thurs 22 3.30 pm
 Fri 23 9.30 am

Holy Communion *at St. Nicolas*
 Magazine collation
 Baby Group

TRINITY 10

Sun	25	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Matins Evening Prayer
Tues	27	10.00 am	Craft Group <i>in hall</i>
Wed	28	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicola</i>

SEPTEMBER

TRINITY 11

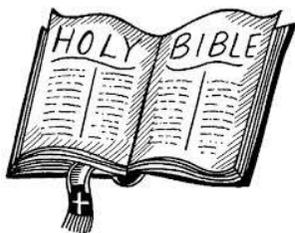
Sun	1	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Parish Communion Evening Prayer
Wed	4	10.30 am	Holy Communion <i>at St. Nicolas</i>
Fri	6	10.30 am	Coffee Morning in hall
Sat	7	7.00 pm	HARVEST SUPPER

HARVEST

Sun	8	8.00 am 10.30 am 6.00 pm	Holy Communion Harvest Communion Evening Prayer
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There will be no coffee mornings in the hall during August. They will restart on Friday 6th September at 10.30 am.





SUNDAY READINGS IN **AUGUST**

Sunday 4th August - TRANSFIGURATION OF OUR LORD

OLD TESTAMENT: Daniel 7.9-10, 13-14

Daniel's vision depicts the joint supremacy of the 'ancient one' with the one to whom he confers eternal sovereignty over all nations.

NEW TESTAMENT: 2 Peter 1.16-19

Peter underscores the function of transfiguration to confirm Jesus' identity as God's son and the fulfilment of the prophetic ministry.

GOSPEL: Luke 9.28-36

Luke's account of the Transfiguration of Christ serves to reinforce the authority of God's word in his teaching.

Sunday 11th August - Trinity 8

OLD TESTAMENT: Genesis 15. 1-6

In just six verses we have messages about the reliability and timing of God's promises, lessons about prayer and the relationship between faith and works.

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 12. 32-40

The parable tells us what it means to have faith during those times when God seems absent.

Sunday 18th August - Trinity 9

OLD TESTAMENT: Jeremiah 23. 23-29

In Jeremiah 23 the nearness of God is not a comfort. God is so near that there are no secret places. Rather than a refuge, here God's nearness results in complete exposure.

NEW TESTAMENT: Hebrews 11. 29-12.2

Hebrews 11 is the great faith chapter of the Bible, first defining faith and then using wellknown Hebrew people to show faith in action.

GOSPEL: Luke 12. 49-56

Jesus, in this passage, says he has not come to bring peace, but division.

Sunday 25th August - Trinity 10

OLD TESTAMENT: Isaiah 30. 8-21

Despite the rebelliousness of God's people, the Lord longs to be gracious and show his compassion and justice and redeem his people.

NEW TESTAMENT: Luke 13. 10-17

A cripple woman healed on the Sabbath.

TO MAKE YOU SMILE

A bookseller emailed a Manchester firm for a dozen copies of Dean Farrar's 'Seekers after God'. He received a reply: 'No seekers after God in Manchester. Try Liverpool.'

Many years ago, Pope John XXIII visited the hospital of the Holy Spirit in Rome, which is administered by a religious sisterhood. The Mother Superior nervously introduced herself: "Most holy Father, I am the Superior of the Holy Spirit."

The Pope smiled and replied: "Well, you are very blessed! I am only the Vicar of Christ."

D-DAY + 75

My youngest daughter, Nicole, in February spotted a Royal British Legion advert asking for veterans to apply for a place in a week of commemoration of the Normandy campaign. I wrote thinking I had a very slim chance of being one of the 300, but the Royal British Legion showed interest and the examination of health and suitability then began. It was getting quite close to the event before I received the acceptance and details together with acceptance of Nicole as my carer.

Then began our hasty preparations, passports, European health insurance cards, suitable clothing etc. for a week, mostly on board the Fred Olsen's ship called Boudicca.

On Sunday 2nd June we rose early and thanks to a neighbour we arrived on time at Poole station to await the pick up coach at 8.15 am. There were about 10 of us and we travelled via Bournemouth, Southampton, Winchester, Basingstoke, Guildford to Dover, picking up 2 or more veterans at each place. In the late afternoon we boarded the ship and our cabin was on the main deck.

Our first meal was dinner and we were astonished to see how well the staff handled nearly 600 passengers plus a crew of over 200. There was no feeling of haste and all went smoothly. Our cabin was comfortable with a large window - not a porthole.

On the first night we crossed to Dunkirk and spent the next night crossing back to Poole! There seemed to be no eagerness to go into the town of Dunkirk on Monday 3rd June. The time available to visit Dunkirk centre seemed limited and as we were still trying to settle into ship routine, we did not go there. I had many memories of Dunkirk and, of course, my wife was born not far away at Ypres. I was

not in the Army until 1941, so I was not involved in the Dunkirk evacuation, but do remember Churchill's stirring message at the time. Any time spent on the ship could easily be filled with a choice of activities and entertainment.

We did circulate in Poole on Tuesday 4th June. Here we met quite a few townsfolk, including some of Nicole's friends and also a cyclist who later turned up in Arromanches! We managed to get back to the ship in time for its evening departure to Portsmouth.

The next day, Wednesday 5th June, was the commemoration event on Southsea Common at which the Queen, Donald Trump and other high rankers were present. Coaches were provided to take us from the ship and I was surprised to see the U.S. President walking to the stage unaccompanied by any security officials.

There was music from two bands, a fly past of Red Arrows and historic planes and other features such as a preserved Spitfire to view. Lunch took place in a marquee. A visit to Southwick House (Eisenhower, Ramsey and Montgomery HQ) was laid on for those interested, but most of us went back to the ship. We sailed from Portsmouth early evening and spent the night docked in Le Havre.

On Thursday morning, 6th June, we boarded coaches for a two hour drive to Bayeux, where our area had been prepared in the war cemetery around the memorial for the commemoration service. This was attended by Theresa May and her husband, Prince Charles and Camilla.

The service was very moving and wreaths were laid including some from veterans. After the service, attended by a band and choir, we circulated round the graves, where I spotted two from my regiment (2nd Fife and Forfar Yeomanry). Lunch followed in a large marquee where

Theresa May was going round the veterans' tables and I managed a handshake and a few words.

We were still in port at Le Havre on Friday 7th June and we boarded coaches again for a drive to the beaches including Sword, Gold, Juno and Arromanches, where we saw the remains of the Mulberry Harbour. Chatted to foreign tourists and then the coaches took us through Courseulles (where I landed from a tank landing ship on 15th June 1944) and then on to Arromanches, a large coastal village. The museum there was rather crowded, so we wandered around the streets. Some preserved tanks were on display as well as an American half-track.

We returned to the ship mid-afternoon and saw the Pegasus Bridge from the dock area. Le Havre didn't look interesting so most stayed on board to have a leisurely evening. The ship was intended to leave for Portsmouth that night, but the voyage was cancelled due to rough weather. It didn't look too bad to me, but perhaps the Captain was concerned for the many 90+ age groups on board! This was noticeable throughout the week - the concern for safety and security - we all had special name cards hung round our necks!

Saturday 8th June we spent on board getting ready for the last special dinner with entertainment and, of course, packing ready for going home on Sunday. I sat next to a veteran who said he was the oldest (101) and he had come from the Poole area. He seemed quite able to move around with just a walking stick.

The ship moved off in the night and must have zigzagged around at sea to kill time before arriving in Dover early morning on Sunday 9th June. Then followed disembarkation after breakfast and the same route back to Poole on the coach.

The week was a brilliant achievement of planning by the wellknown charity - the Royal British Legion - whose officials were with us to ensure our comfort and safety. For most of us the idea of creating a week of travel for over 90 year olds would have given us a severe headache. The RBL deserves the highest praise and also the shipping line - Fred Olsen. Even at my age (97), I am somewhat hooked on the idea of a cruise!

Geoff Hayward

REPORT FROM THE CLERGY STUDY DAY

I thought it might interest some to know what it was Andrew and I got up to on the 10th of July, the Salisbury Diocese Clergy day, held at Bryanston School. The weather being lovely, I decided to try cycling to Bryanston, which was very beautiful – there is a lovely route up the River Stour which I enjoyed.

The theme of the event was 'Deepening Discipleship in the 21st century', and the day was formed around a keynote speech by the outgoing head of the church army on this title, Mark Russell.

The day began by meeting in the main building for coffee and croissants, and time given over to perusal of various stalls and bookshops which moved into the school for the day. . This was followed by the Bishop's introduction to the day and a Eucharist service in the theatre, over which he presided.

Then followed the keynote speech. It was a charismatic speech, with a very dynamic speaker, which was aimed at giving clergy some ideas about how to teach disciples.

According to Mark, the crisis in the Church of England was not a lack of people in the churches, but a lack of disciples in the churches; disciples, he maintained, bring more disciples into the church

He took his mission statement from the quote of Isaiah in Luke 4;

he has anointed me

to proclaim good news to the poor.

He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners

and recovery of sight for the blind,

to set the oppressed free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.

The idea was to encourage more Christians into this sort of missionary work, and his main practical advice was that small groups grew and learnt better together than larger ones, and he had a number of different formats to explore, from bible study groups like the one which we hold, to a group which met on the tube on the way into London; a context which is unlikely to be replicated here! He also spoke about staying spiritually active as clergy, and maintaining a prayer life to support the wider activities of the church. I think it was an interesting talk, if not, perhaps, especially relevant to this parish, and there was certainly much to discuss before lunch.

Lunch was excellent, and post lunch there were some group discussions which we had signed up for; I chose a group which was focussing on ways to get churchgoers to have an active faith from Sunday to Sunday, not just at the

weekends. The discussion was fruitful and it was interesting to listen to different ideas – I think we do rather well, of the half a dozen action points suggested, we already did 3 of them as a church! The others were perhaps not quite right for us.

The day closed off with another talk from Mark, before closing worship and returning home. Probably the most useful thing from the day was not the scheduled activities, but rather a chance to catch up with old friends, and meet new ones amongst the clergy of the diocese; being such a large diocese means that there are always new and interesting parishes and clergy to learn of and meet.

The Rev'd Tom Pelham

All in the month of August

It was:

75 years ago, on 1st August 1944 that 15-year-old Jewish diarist Anne Frank made the last entry in her famous diary. On 4th August she and her family were arrested in Amsterdam where they had been hiding, and were taken to Auschwitz concentration camp.

Also 75 years ago, on 25th August 1944 that Paris was liberated after French and US troops forced the German occupiers to surrender. The Germans had occupied the city for four years.

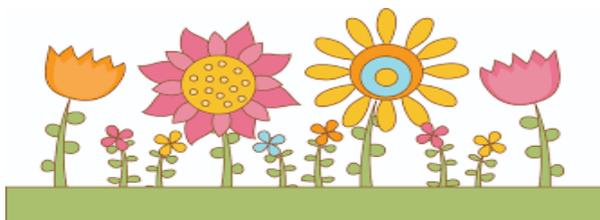
FROM THE REGISTERS

Weddings

6 th July	Zachary Davis & Elizabeth Dedman
13 th July	Jacob Baker & Emma Hockey
20 th July	Alexander Denley & Jolanta Riskeviciute Ian Warford & Emma Hill
27 th July	Simon Elder & Sarah Hall

ALTAR FLOWERS

Sunday 4 th August	Grace Martin
Sunday 11 th August	Grace Martin
Sunday 18 th August	Wendy Bales
Sunday 25 th August	Wendy Bales



MAGAZINE DEADLINE

The deadline for the September edition of the
Church Magazine is
Friday 16th August