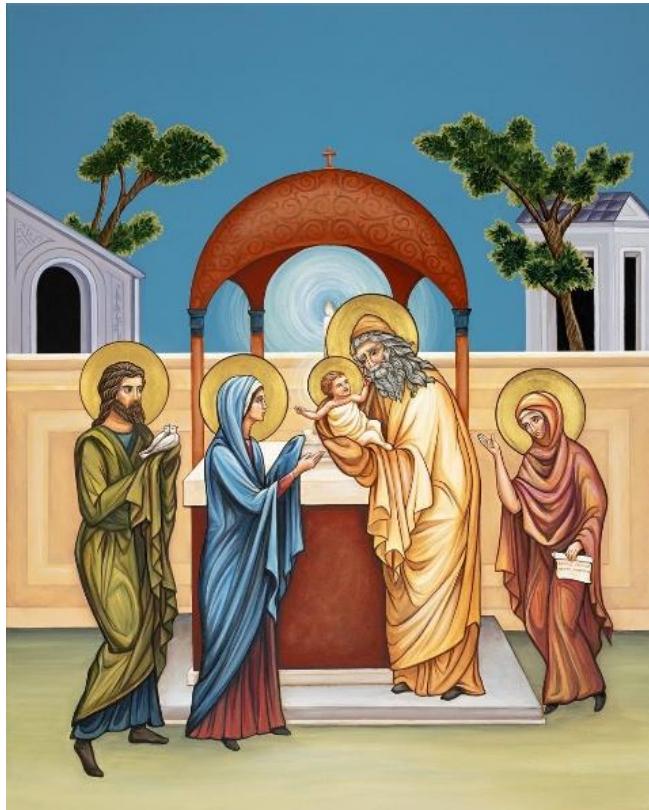


HOLY TRINITY TAUNTON

Including news from The Good Shepherd, Furnham

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PRESENTATION
OF THE LORD

February 2026

Holy Trinity Service Times

Services are as follows:

Sunday

8.00am, 10.00am & 4.00pm

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday 10.00am

Friday 12.30pm

Saturday 6.00pm

**All services are streamed on Facebook except
Saturday 6pm & Sunday 8am.**

**Service times may occasionally vary – please see
weekly notice sheet for details.**

To access streamed services:



@ Holy Trinity Taunton



Holy Trinity Taunton

Fr Julian can be emailed directly: frjulianssc@gmail.com



Please use this QR code if you would like to make a
donation to Holy Trinity

PARISH DIRECTORY

VICAR	Fr Julian Laurence	01823 337890
HON. ASST. CLERGY	Bishop Michael Langrish Fr James Finnemore	
LAY PASTORAL ASSISTANTS	Mrs Jane Laurence Mrs Jenni Llewellyn	01823 354800 (Church Office)
CHURCHWARDENS	Mr John Godley Mrs Jenni Llewellyn	01823 354800 (Church Office)
DEPUTY CHURCHWARDEN	Mrs Liz Hathway	
SAFEGUARDING OFFICER	Mrs Jo Bailey / Mrs Charis Cavaghan-Pack	
DEDICATED SAFEGUARDING LINE		07771 908514
PARISH OFFICE	Administrator: Mrs Pauline Holt	354800
PCC Vice-Chairman	Mr Geraint Jones	01823 284376
PCC Treasurer	Mrs Pauline Holt	(Church Office) 354800
PCC Secretary	Mr Keith Penny	(Church Office) 354800
Electoral Roll Secretary	Mr Keith Penny	(Church Office) 354800
Data Protection	Mr Keith Penny	(Church Office) 354800
Organist & Choir Trainer	Mr Simon Gaunt	01984 641584
Editor of 'Outlook'	Mrs Jane Laurence	01823 337890
'Outlook' advertising	Parish Administrator	01823 354800
Sacristan	Mrs Jenni Llewellyn	01823 354800
Head of Servers	Mr David Lovelock	01823 354800
Captain of Bellringers	Mrs Margaret Jordan	07972 524557
Church Flowers	Mrs Sylvie Paul	01823 279436

Website: www.holytrinitytaunton.org

Email: holytrinity01@outlook.com Facebook: Holy Trinity Taunton

HOLY TRINITY CHURCH HALL

is available for hire for a special function or regular meetings

To book please contact the Church Administrator

Tel: 01823 354800 Email: holytrinity01@outlook.com

Taunton Funeral Service

A helping hand at a time of need



Independently and Family Run - 24hr service
Private Chapels of Rest
Caring Personal Service

01823 321077

55 Bridge Street,
Taunton, TA1 1TP

01984 624149

Broad Meadow View, West Road,
Wiveliscombe, TA4 2TB



E: info@tauntonfuneralservice.com W: tauntonfuneralservice.com

THURLOXTON MANOR HOUSE



Small, non-institutional residential care home for up to 5 elderly people to live comfortably in their own space alongside our family. Home cooked meals shared together in the farmhouse kitchen.

Contact Emily: 07915 175358
emily@thurloxttonmanor.co.uk



FR JULIAN WRITES...



February 2026

We are at a crossroads in the liturgical year. We say farewell to the Crib, and in a few weeks' time we shall be beginning Lent. One last look backwards, and then bracing our shoulders and firming our steps, we follow Christ to the Cross and beyond. And the day we encounter the crossroads is the feast which we'll celebrate on the first Sunday of February – Candlemass.

One of the names for this special Feast is the Presentation of Christ in the Temple. It is when Mary and Joseph brought their first-born to the Temple, in accordance with the Jewish Law to 'present' him as a thanksgiving for his birth, along with offering a meagre sacrifice, the due of the poor – a small bird. Jesus was not 'presented' in the ways other children were. After all, he was God's own Son and so his existence was already well-known to the Father. Rather, Jesus's presentation was a further 'epiphany' as God's salvation was revealed further to the world, recognised by the aged Simeon and Anna, the prophet, 'a light to enlighten the Gentiles' as Simeon proclaimed.

It depends how you pronounce the word as to whether 'present' is a noun (a gift) or a verb (to give). The Presentation of Christ is both. It is the day when he is presented at the Temple, and the day when God's present to humanity is acknowledged, and he is seen in our human situation. I've described the scene at the Temple as an 'epiphany', a coming before the 'appearance'. And that is what happened: Simeon and Anna were both drawn to God's appearance, in the Christ-child. But this is also a theophany, the 'appearance' of God. The two are quite different, and not just a theological quibble or a semantic argument about words and their translation from Greek. Theophany means a tangible, visible or other encounter with the presence of God.

In the Old Testament, God ‘appeared’ in various ways. Sometimes it was in the form natural phenomena, such as wind, earthquake, lightning, fire, sound, amongst others, but also in bodily form such as in angels (as God could not be looked upon directly). These were all aspects of the theophany of God, yet in the New Testament, his theophany was in a single way. The person of Christ, God’s own Son; nothing more, nothing less.

When Mary and Joseph brought their child to the Temple at his Presentation, they were instruments of theophany. Mary gave birth to Jesus, God’s very own Son, through the overshadowing of the Holy Spirit at the Annunciation. The shepherds and the Magi were drawn to the appearance of God through the message of angels and the guiding of a star, and came into the presence of God. They acknowledged the child there, and then returned to their own contexts; fields or palaces.

Those who witnessed to Christ as a child or as an adult experienced theophany in a tangible and visible way. He was a real person; he could be seen and touched, he lived just as we did – and died like us, too. But theophany occurs without the physical presence of God in Christ. because of Christ’s birth, God is present in every human, in every human experience, in every human place, in every human time. All – just all! – we have to do is actually recognise God’s appearance in our midst.

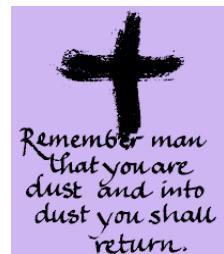
And there are signs. Firstly, there is the gift of Holy Scripture which outlines God’s love and dealings with his creatures. Then, more obviously, are the sacraments of the church, especially Baptism and Holy Communion. And then we can see the appearance of God in one another, and in ourselves. Remember 1 John 4. 16?! Probably not immediately, but we think about it every Maundy Thursday: where love and charity are, there is God. As we look on the world today, what a thought that is, and ask ourselves, as to how can we present God to a darkened world.

With my prayers and good wishes

Fr Julian

WHY AND WHAT...?

‘Remember that dust you are and to dust shall you return.’ These are some of the words that are used at the ‘Imposition of Ashes’ on Ash Wednesday, when the sign of the cross is made on our foreheads in ash made from the last year’s palm crosses. The custom dates from the 4thC – 6thC, so it’s no modern innovation, although it has become increasingly common amongst all denominations in recent years.



There are four main reasons why this practice is continued, more than tradition itself.

Ashes are a sign of repentance and sorrow. There are many references in the Old Testament about sitting in sackcloth and ashes as a sign of these things, particularly with Jonah and Nineveh.

Ash is also a sign of mortality, as the opening phrase at their imposition clearly reminds us. As a society, we try to avoid ‘death’, with the context in which it occurs, the euphemisms we use rather than ‘dying’, ‘died’, ‘death’ and ‘dead’. Death comes to us all, but we try to avoid the reality.

The cross marked on us is a sign of a new beginning, almost a rite of passage. Along with the sacrament of reconciliation (confession) and the penitential aspects in Lent, it reminds that in Christ we are a new creation, and through the disciplines, the renewed discipleship in Lent, we can begin again an unimpaired relationship with God. It recalls the invisible cross we received at baptism, and is an outward sign of our faith.

Finally, ashes are a reminder of the need for God’s grace and mercy as we prepare to celebrate the resurrection of his Son at Easter. Our salvation, being saved from the power of death, is primarily an act of God, not the result of our own efforts alone. It is because of the resurrection that we can confidently use those words I’ve mentioned above.

Ash Wednesday is on 18th February and at the conclusion of the Imposition, we are challenged to ‘repent and believe the gospel’.

PALM CROSSES

As hopefully you have read above, the ash used on Ash Wednesday is made from the previous year's palm crosses. Please place all your palm crosses in the basket at the back of church, no later than Sunday 15th February. Thank you.





ASH WEDNESDAY

Wednesday 18th February
7.00pm
Mass and Imposition of Ashes

RICHARD TOMLINSON AND TAUNTON BOWLING CLUB

The following item about Richard appeared in Taunton Bowling Club's January Newsletter.

Loss of a long standing club member: It all started with a cup of tea. Richard Tomlinson joined Taunton Bowling Club in 2008. He had come to Taunton to attend a funeral. Walking around Vivary Park he noticed a sign for the bowling club. Vic Jarman was just locking up. Vic suggested he came in to have a look around and offered him a cup of tea. It was a lucky day for the Club as Richard decided to join, quickly made friends, became very involved and soon moved to Taunton.

He volunteered to help on the bar, the outdoor green, became Match Secretary in 2010 and Assistant Treasurer in 2012. In 2016 he became President of the Club and in 2018 he became Club Treasurer.

He was a marvellous member, generous and helpful to many members as well as to the Club, having made many donations over years, including the provision of the Club Flag.

Contributed by Anne Kearle

CALENDAR FOR FEBRUARY

The Sundays, readings and themes, and Saints days for February are listed below.

1 CANDLEMASS *Theme: The Presentation of Our Lord*

Readings: Malachi 3.1-5; Hebrews 2.14-18; Luke 2.22-40

3 Tue S. Anskar, Archbishop, Missionary (865)

4 Wed S. Gilbert of Sempringham (1189)

5 Thu S. Agatha, Virgin & Martyr (251)

6 Fri S. Paul Miki & Companions, Martyrs in Japan (1597)

8 2ND BEFORE LENT *Theme: God's Unfailing Love*

Readings: Genesis 1.1-2.3; Romans 8.18-25; Matthew 6.25-34

9 Mon S. Teilo, Monk, Bishop (560)

10 Tue S. Scholastica, Abbess (543)

11 Wed Our Lady of Lourdes

12 Thu S. Ethelwold, Monk, Bishop of Lindisfarne (740)

14 Sat SS. Cyril & Methodius, Missionaries (869 & 565)

15 NEXT BEFORE LENT *Theme: Transfiguration*

Readings: Exodus 24.12-18; 2 Peter 1.16-21; Matthew 17.1-9

17 Tue Janani Luwum, Archbishop of Uganda, Martyr (1977)

Shrove Tuesday

18 ASH WEDNESDAY *Theme: Repentance*

Readings: Joel 2.1-2,12-17; 2 Corinthians 5.20b-6.10; Matt 6.1-6,16-21

21 Sat S. Peter Damian, Benedictine Monk, Reformer (1072)

22 LENT 1 *Theme: Christ, The Second Adam*

Readings: Genesis 2.15-17&3.1-7; Romans 5.12-19; Matthew 4.1-11

23 Mon S. Polycarp, Bishop of Smyrna, Martyr (155)

25 Wed S. Ethelbert of Kent, 1st Christian Anglo-Saxon King (616)

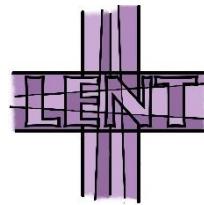
27 Fri George Herbert, Priest, Poet (1633)

28 Sat S. Oswald, Benedictine Monk, Archbishop of York (992)

LENT
Pray + Fast + Give

EVENTS IN LENT

Holy Trinity's programme for Lent is as follows:



Stations of the Cross:

Fridays, from 20th February, 6.00pm. A simple devotion as we follow the journey of Jesus from his trial to his burial.

Discussion Group:

Thursdays, 7.30pm, at the Vicarage.

Seder Meal

Saturday 28th March, 7pm. A traditional Passover meal such as Jesus might have shared with his disciples at the Last Supper

Chrism Mass

26th March, Exeter Cathedral

11am Concelebrated Mass, followed by a buffet lunch

2.15pm Catechesis, 3pm Benediction

SHROVE TUESDAY PARTY

Tuesday 17th February, 7pm, in the church hall

*There will be a
Fish & Chip Supper followed by Pancakes*



Price £12

Please see Liz Hathway if you would like to go

EASTER LILIES

There will be an opportunity as usual to remember loved ones through Easter lilies this year. Forms will be available shortly. Please return forms by Mothering Sunday, 15th March.



Spotlight on...



Simon Gaunt

I had a visitor into the office this week, our Organist and Director of Music, Simon Gaunt, came to see me and he has a very interesting story to tell...



Simon, thank you for coming to see me today tell me, how long have you lived in Taunton, do you have any family and what brought you to where you are today?

I was born in Bradford. My father was the parish priest of what was a new parish between Bradford and Leeds, St James, Pudsey. Like many clergy children, I was baptized by my father in that church. My mother had trained as a church worker at a college in Blackheath which was evacuated to Chester during the war. On completing her training, she became Sunday School Organizer for the Diocese of Bradford. Years later, she was to become President of the Mothers' Union in the Diocese of York.

When I was still quite small we moved to Bingley, a mill town in the West Riding of Yorkshire. I don't remember a great deal of life there but I do recollect three African bishops appearing for lunch one Sunday! I think the year must have been 1958 and that these exotic episcopal strangers were in England for the Lambeth Conference.

Later that year there was another move. This time to a parish in the Diocese of York in the heart of the North York Moors. There, I attended the local primary school and sang in my first church choir. There were nine of us in total, all children. Singing was to become a very important part of my life.

When I was nine years old it was decided that I should audition for the choir of St Paul's Cathedral, London. On a dark February evening my parents and I set off on the nine-hour journey down to London. We arrived in the early hours of the next morning, parked in a car park which was actually a flattened bomb-site at the east end of the

cathedral. After a very brief sleep in the car, I took an entrance exam. and an audition for St Paul's Cathedral Choir School – I was accepted!

I started at the school in May of that year. I vividly remember my first supper of sausage and chips. This meal was followed by a choir rehearsal with the organist, Sir John Dykes Bower. The experience of hearing, for the first time, thirty-eight boys making such a huge sound was one which I shall never forget. Thus, my career began – two services each day and three (sometimes four) on a Sunday. A heavy schedule for which the Dean and Chapter covered the cost of our education.

Life at St Paul's was never dull and, as well as the daily services, we sang at many royal and national occasions. The first 'big' service I recall was the tercentenary commemoration of The Book of Common Prayer. For this celebration the Archbishop of Canterbury (Michael Ramsey) wore a long train for which he required two train-bearers. I was chosen to be one of these bearers – quite an honour!

Three other services stand out above the others. We sang for a broadcast memorial service following the assassination of John F. Kennedy which was attended by many national and international figures. Martin Luther King turned up to preach at a Sunday Evensong. The cathedral was packed with three and a half thousand people. This was the first forty-minute sermon I ever sat through. This record was beaten the following Easter by the Bishop of London who spoke for forty-five minutes! Perhaps the most important and certainly the most memorable service at which I sang was the state funeral of Sir Winston Churchill.

I was confirmed at St Paul's Cathedral. If one was a confirmed chorister you were automatically on the rota to be an altar server at the daily eight o'clock Eucharist. I had already been trained as a server by my father so I was used to it. However, it was a challenge to remember which celebrant did what and when. Luckily, I had no mishaps. One thing which will remain with me is walking into the massive space of St Paul's in the early morning. There would be the muffled sound of a verger preparing for the service somewhere in the distance, otherwise there was silence. Still today I like to arrive at HT before seven o'clock on a Sunday morning to soak up the stillness and prepare myself for what I must do later in the morning.

I left St Paul's when I was fourteen and returned to Yorkshire. I sang in my school choir and played for some of the services. It was at school that I received my first formal organ lessons and became a parish organist around a year later.

I studied music at Leeds University whilst at the same time singing bass at Ripon Cathedral. I became a Lay Clerk (a professional adult singer in a cathedral or collegiate choir) combining singing with teaching at Ripon Cathedral Choir School. A few years later I was appointed Succentor at the cathedral where it was my duty to assist the Precentor in the preparation and conduct of the services, often singing the Office and overseeing liturgical administration and supporting the musical life of the cathedral. In the absence of a precentor, I organized a visit of the Queen Mother, the Royal Maundy Service and was responsible for the Three Choirs' Festival, involving the choirs of Ripon and Durham Cathedrals and York Minster.

However, I was keen to expand my experience, especially of singing, and I went to St Albans Cathedral as a bass lay clerk and was Director of Music at two schools in Hertfordshire. Being at St Albans involved many recordings and broadcasts including ten tours to the USA. During this time, I sang for the funeral of Robert Runcie (former Archbishop of Canterbury), the one hundredth birthday celebrations for the Queen Mother, as well as the visits of Princess Margaret and Diana, Princess of Wales.

I was able to extend my singing career as a soloist and consort singer, visiting many parts of Europe and beyond. These included such venues as Walt Disney World in Florida, St John's Co-Cathedral in Valetta, Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral, and three recordings in Paris with Worcester Cathedral Choir.

The time came for another return to my home county, largely to keep an eye on my ageing parents. At the same time, I held posts at Blackburn and Manchester Cathedrals and York Minster. I worked for the BBC and sang with the Daily Service Singers on Radio 4. I combined these activities with the position of Director of Chapel Music at a school near York.

Almost fifteen years ago came the move to Somerset. Here, there is a connection with St Albans as the choir used to have an annual camp at Lucombe near Minehead. In return for the hospitality received from

parishioners, we sang two services in the village church on the Sunday of our stay.

What do you do in your spare time, what are your hobbies?

I enjoy reading, watching cricket, listening to music and walking the dog.

What would you say is important to you and what does your faith and Holy Trinity mean to you?

Obviously, music and, in particular, singing, is very important to me. 'To sing is to pray twice' is a saying often attributed to St Augustine. In other words, singing engages the mind with words and the body with musical expression. Prayer 1 – the words themselves. Prayer 2 – the physical, emotional and spiritual act of singing. Singing/playing the organ can deeply connect one to faith (and to help the faith of others) and God.

I first arrived at HT in June 2011. There is a lack of pretension here and it reminds me of the tradition in which I was brought up from those first days in a vicarage.

Thank you Simon, what a very interesting and varied life you have led.

Pauline Holt

HOLY TRINITY WINNERS

December 2025

1st	Jenni Llewellyn	£61.25
2nd	Lindsay Edmunds	£36.75
3rd	Jean Dalzell	£24.50

Tub2Pub

The collecting of tubs has now finished, thank you to all who gave me their empty tubs. The ones from Church (around 20) were added to those collected in County Hall, a photograph of some of them is below. In total over 450 were collected.



A RECIPE FOR FEBRUARY

ONE-POT MIDWEEK CHICKEN ROAST

This easy to do but tasty chicken dish serves 4 and, despite the title, is suitable to have on any day of the week.

Ingredients

1kg (2lb 2oz) Small new potatoes, scrubbed and halved
500g (1lb 2oz) Chantenay carrots, halved lengthways
2 Small parsnips, quartered
2 tbsp Olive oil
4 Skinless, boneless chicken breasts
100g (3½oz) Mature cheddar cheese
4 Rashers streaky bacon
4 Sprigs fresh thyme
Salt and pepper to taste



Method

- Pre-heat the oven to 200°C/gas mark 6.
- Put the potatoes into a large roasting pan with the carrots and parsnips. Add the oil and toss to coat. Roast for 20 minutes.
- Use a sharp knife to slice a pocket into each chicken breast. Fill each pocket with some of the cheese (keep some of the cheese back for later). Wrap a rasher of streaky bacon around each chicken breast, tucking a sprig of thyme into each one.
- Arrange on top of the vegetables. Season to taste.
- Roast for a further 20 minutes.
- Sprinkle the remaining cheese over the chicken and return to the oven for another 10 to 15 minutes until melted and golden.

As an alternative, you could make this with pork fillet instead of chicken. Just split and fill with cheese, wrapping the bacon round as before.

Contributed by Mary Patey

A POEM FOR FEBRUARY (AND FOR ST VALENTINE'S DAY)

By Francesco Petrarch (1304 - 1374)

This poem is copied in a wonderful book lent to me by a neighbour, 'The Florentines - from Dante to Galileo' by Paul Strathern, published by Atlantic Books, ISBN: 978-1-78649-874-8. As a young man Francesco went with his parents from Florence to Avignon, then the seat of the Papacy. There he met a beautiful young woman called Laura and he fell instantly in love with her. He made a discrete and polite approach to her and was equally swiftly politely rejected. She was already married. This rejection, in the author's words, served only to 'inflame and purify his love' and Laura inspired him to write some 300 sonnets to her honour. In this sonnet (Nr 33) she is not mentioned by name. Petrarch was only released from his captivity by Laura's premature death from the plague.



Petrarch accepted a small office in the Church, which involved no priestly duties and provided him with a modest income, enabling him to write his poetry and to travel. He never married. After I returned the book to its owner, I had to buy my own copy. I think that, in the last two lines, the love that finds him, and all that believe and trust in him is that of our Creator God and Saviour. What do you think?

*Alone, and pensive, near some desert shore,
Far from the haunts of men I love to stray,
And, cautiously, my distant path explore
Where never human footsteps mark'd the way,
Thus from the public gaze I fly,
And to the winds alone my griefs impart;
While in my hollow cheek and haggard eye
Appears the fire that burns my inmost heart.
But ah, in vain to distant scenes I go;
No solitude my troubled thought allays.
Methinks e'en things inanimate must know
The flame that on my soul in secret prays;
Whilst love, unconquer'd, with restless sway
Still hovers round my path, still meets me on my way.*

Pat Hitchcock



THE SUNDAY LUNCH CLUB

will be visiting the following:

8 February	Pickeridge Golf Club
8 March	The Maypole, Thurloxtion
12 April	Pickeridge Golf Club
10 May	Monkton Elm
14 June	Pickeridge Golf Club

All bookings are for 12.15. Please sign the list at the back of Church if you would like to join us. If you need a lift please ensure you arrange this before signing up.

Wendy Burge

A LENTEN THOUGHT

*Happy moments, praise God.
Difficult moments, seek God.
Quiet moments, worship God.
Painful moments, trust God.
Every moment, thank God.*

SMILE LINES 😊

Hymns for Professionals

- Dentist - Crown Him with many crowns
- Contractors - The Church's one foundation
- Golfers - There is a green hill far away
- Librarians - Let all mortal flesh keep silent

Church bulletin notices that did not come out quite right...

The Seniors group will have a picnic on Saturday. Each person is asked to bring either a friend or a vegetable in a covered dish.

Church Jumble Sale: All welcome. We can offer a gents three-speed bicycle, and two ladies for sale, in good running order."

From the Parish Pump

MAGAZINE DEADLINE: Wednesday 18th February 2026

CANON GUY CARLETON OGS - Part 1

In the Summer of 1974 I flew to the Caribbean to begin a year teaching on the island of Anguilla on Voluntary Service Overseas. It was here that I met Canon Guy Carleton OGS.

The Canon was a pivotal figure in Anguilla's modern history, serving not only as a senior clergyman but also as a leading voice during the Anguillan Revolution of 1967. He involved himself during the Island's struggle for separation from the administration of St Kitts-Nevis-Anguilla. "An unholy marriage which neither God nor geography had decreed." This quote captures that the local sentiment that the forced political union was unnatural and deeply resented, St. Kitts and Nevis being 100 miles away.

His writings were often picked up by the foreign press. Howard Gossage, an iconoclastic adman known as the "Socrates of San Francisco" became deeply involved with Anguilla during its bid for independence, helping them create publicity and awareness notably through a famous full-page New York Times ad which highlighted their struggle. He was an advertising genius for political and social causes. He collaborated with Ronald Webster, Anguillan leader, to remain separate from St Kitts and Nevis.

Canon Carleton wrote several letters in support of the Anguillan cause to newspapers in the UK and lobbied members of Parliament. Finally the crisis culminated in Britain's 'Operation Sheepskin' invading Anguilla in March 1969, which met no armed resistance. Anguilla eventually became a separate British Crown Colony in 1980 and remains so today.

I was friendly with Canon Carleton during my time as a teacher doing Voluntary Service Overseas in 1974/75. He had been the Minister of the Anglican church but had moved back to the island as the warm climate helped his arthritis, enabling him to swim daily.

In 1977 he finally left and moved to Norwich.

John Clarke
Part 2 next month

NEWS FROM THE GOOD SHEPHERD, FURNHAM

THE 3 C'S

The photographs below were taken at the innovative '3 C's' event at The Good Shepherd a week or so before Christmas. The 3 'C's' standing for coffee, cake and carols.



It was billed as a 'drop in' but those who attended came at the start and stayed throughout, enjoying the atmosphere and the 3 C's.



It was also lovely to see some new faces joining in and enjoying the event. The music was very ably provided by the South Somerset Youth Orchestra & Friends.

This was the first event of its kind at the church and it is hoped that it will not be the last.



The Christmas Tree, a suggestion made by Father Julian, was also placed in the main church porch, facing East Street, in time for the carols.

This, again, was a first but many positive comments were received, so this too will hopefully be repeated next Christmas.

Laura Wishart

WORK ON THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Those with keen eyesight will have noticed that a considerable amount of plasterwork has been removed from the rear walls of the church. This is to allow the walls to breath and so dry out as water has, over the years, been trapped behind the plaster.

In due time they can be re-plastered in the correct lime mortar but for now we are treated to the bare stone work which actually does not look too bad.

The porch has also been stripped of plaster and temporary work on the guttering has prevented further deterioration due to water ingress.

Over the next few weeks (depending on the weather) tower scaffolding will be used to inspect the roof and replace any broken or slipped tiles. Bit by bit, we hope to get the building water tight.



The broken windows are about to be replaced and the relocation of the font is ongoing with an Online Application in the process of being submitted to the Diocesan Advisory Committee for their approval. In principle they have agreed but the 'i's must be dotted and the 't's crossed!



The repair to the Calvary and its plinth has also been approved and Wessex Conservation will be carrying out the work over the course of this year.

We hope to have the memorial re-consecrated by Bishop Paul on Remembrance Sunday.

Watch this space!

CLASPING HANDS

By Edward B Pugh (2000)



When I clasp my hands, O Lord
And speak to you in prayer
I know that you will listen
And my troubles you will share

Yet just like every sinner, Lord
I only call your name
When my heart is troubled
Or when I'm feeling pain

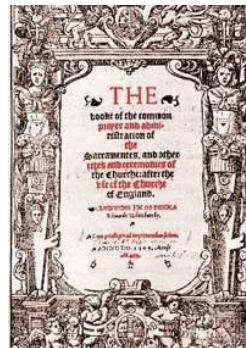
Yes, I should be on my knees
Each and every day
Thanking for the gift of life
And the joys you send my way

Thanking for my daily bread
And seeing to my needs
Lighting up my darkest days
And answering my pleas.

Contributed by Laura Wishart

BEING COMMON...

There's nothing wrong with being a bit common from time to time! Let me explain. 477 years ago, in June 1549, the Book of Common Prayer was first issued throughout the Church of England. It was called 'common' because it was in English, the language that the people used in their everyday lives, instead of Latin that only the priests and educated people would understand.



Imagine how strange it would be to say prayers in a language that we don't understand? If we go to church whilst on holiday abroad then perhaps we will have some idea of what the worshippers of the day experienced.

The Book of Common Prayer changed all of that, suddenly people could understand and take part in the act of worship. There have been lots of changes down the years to our church services but arguably none has been as major as when the prayers suddenly became 'common'.

Changes continued and now the Church of England has Common Worship, in all its forms but for its magnificent language and style, the Book of Common Prayer has never been beaten.



26th March, Exeter Cathedral

11am Solemn Concelebrated Mass of the Chrism
followed by lunch

2.15pm Catechesis, 3pm Benediction

Also on 28th March at St John's Bathwick

ALL IN THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY

It was:

- 200 years ago, on 4th Feb 1826 that James Fenimore Cooper's historical romance novel *The Last of the Mohicans* was published.
- 175 years ago, on 1st Feb 1851 that novelist Mary Shelley died, aged 53. Best known for her Gothic novel *Frankenstein*.
- 125 years ago, on 2nd Feb 1901 that the funeral of Queen Victoria took place.
- 80 years ago, on 11th Feb 1946, that the Revised Standard Version of the New Testament was published. It was the first major English-language update of the Bible since the King James version was published in 1611.
- 70 years ago, on 11th Feb 1956 that two members of the Cambridge spy ring, British diplomats Guy Burgess and Donald Maclean, announced that they had defected to the Soviet Union. They had both vanished in mysterious circumstances in 1951.
- 65 years ago, on 9th Feb 1961 that the Beatles played at the Cavern Club in Liverpool for the first time.
- 50 years ago, on 11th Feb 1976 that John Curry won Britain's first-ever Olympic gold medal in figure skating.
- Also 50 years ago, on 23rd Feb 1976 that artist the L S Lowry died. Known for his bleak industrial landscapes of north-west England, populated with matchstick men.
- 40 years ago, on 12th Feb 1986 that the Treaty of Canterbury was signed by Britain and France. It agreed to construct the Channel Tunnel linking the two countries. The tunnel opened in 1994.
- 30 years ago, on 1st Feb 1996 that US President Bill Clinton met Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams at the White House, to discuss the Northern Ireland Peace Process.
- 25 years ago, on 19th Feb 2001 that the first case of foot-and-mouth disease in the 2001 UK outbreak was detected at an abattoir in Essex.
- 20 years ago, on 18th Feb 2006 that the Rolling Stones played the world's largest free rock concert on Copacabana beach, Rio de Janeiro. An estimated 2 million people attended.

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Flame of a Candle

See the candle flame a-burning
See its flick'ring, dancing light;
See how it, the darkness spurning
Burns throughout the darkest night.

Light of faith, of God reminding
As His Spirit, long ago
Lit the first apostles, finding
Faith within the Spirit's glow.

Light of life – God's life eternal
Won through Christ's atoning death
Sparing us from Hell, infernal<
Granting us His living breath!

Light of hope, in God victorious
For we know that He will win
When we'll see His flames of glorious
Vict'ry o'er the pow'r of sin!

Light your candle, kneel and praise Him
Kneel and praise the Lord of Hosts;
Let your prayers and praises raise Him
Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.

By Nigel Beeton from the *Parish Pump*