

Fr Tubbs writes

Congregations in America are large. The smallest congregation in any of the churches we visited was four hundred; most of them were in excess of six hundred. This, of course, has an affect on the collections. I asked each of the church leaders – and we visited Anglican, Roman Catholic, Methodist, Lutheran, Mennonite and Assemblies of God – whether their people tithed. The answer was always that some do, most don't. In terms of money, of course, it doesn't matter. There is plenty of money if you have a congregation of 500+ people. I also discovered that the apportionment which one church paid to 'headquarters' was £70,000, and they had over six hundred people to pay; our common fund is £95,000 and we have three hundred people to pay it, many of whom don't actually give anything! (300 is the number of people on our electoral roll, many of whom do not attend regularly and do not give)

Having visited Wall Street as tourists, we returned to this



extremely serious financial situation which, it seems, is affecting the whole world. Money is not only scarce, it is also under threat – though no bank need worry about guaranteeing £50,000 for me – I don't have anything like that in my account!

Yet the bills still continue to come in for our three churches. The credit crunch does not stop the electricity company, gas company, insurance company, builders, stationery suppliers, church suppliers (even of bread and wine) charging for their services and expecting to be paid. And you all know that clergy stipends and pensions are funded almost entirely by the giving of congregations throughout the country. (Not that clergy don't give – of course they do, and in that sense help to raise their own pay!)

So we shall have a stewardship campaign going on as you read this. It will begin in October and continue throughout November. It will be a campaign about money, and it will ask you to increase your giving – if you can! No one is asking the impossible; if you haven't got it you can't give it. All you are being asked to do is to compare your giving to God with what you spend on yourself – the luxuries of a hair-do, bottle of wine, daily newspapers and magazines, occasional meal out, money spent on hobbies and travel which is not actually necessary.

It may well be that you have to *decrease* your giving. If since last year your situation has changed so that you have less money, then there is no problem in cutting your giving. If you have had any kind of increase, then you may well be able to increase your giving.

But as always we've started from the wrong end. The churches in America which had no financial problems, which employed large numbers of people full-time, which paid their pastors well over the odds, were also churches where the leaders said

to me that they needed to teach stewardship to their people, stewardship which means that no matter how much money the church needs or doesn't need, we need to give to God. God loves a cheerful giver, Jesus tells us (a saying of his not recorded in any of the Gospels, but quoted by S Paul in the Acts of the Apostles).

Do you remember the story in 2 Samuel 24, where a plague had struck the people of Israel and killed seventy thousand people? King David wanted to offer a sacrifice to God to stop the plague. He went to a farm and asked the farmer to sell him what he needed – wood, oxen and material for an altar. The farmer, Araunah by name, was so honoured by the visit of the king that he wanted to *give* these things to the king. David replied that he would pay for it, and uttered those words which I think sum up every stewardship campaign, every discussion about money:

'I will not offer to the Lord my God sacrifices which have cost me nothing'. Sacrifice means just that



– something which costs us. Not the spare change we happen to have in our pocket on Sunday morning, but an amount each week that we have thought about and prayed about. Given by envelope, it means we still give each week even if we have to miss church occasionally. Given by direct debit, we never have to

remember to put our offering aside if we do miss.

However you give, I hope you will respond generously and sacrificially to this year's stewardship campaign.

Yours sincerely

## CHRISTMASS BONANZA

The Christmass Bonanza can be a good day for socialising! Fr Bob and I will spend the whole time walking around the hall, speaking to people, and it is a good opportunity for us to meet people who don't come to church. Those who will be manning stalls will end up tired if not exhausted – but they will enjoy it and will say at the end of the day that there was a good atmosphere as all three churches worked together. Those coming to look for a bargain or to support our churches will be impressed by what we have to offer, and will encounter members of our congregations who will greet them and smile at them and do what they can to help them.

Yet at the end of the day – literally! – we hope that the Bonanza will raise money. That is its primary purpose. The profit is shared equally between our three churches, so each one benefits.

I hope that you will make an effort to ensure that this event, for which so many people work so hard, achieves that end of raising money. We need all kinds of things to sell; we need refreshments and people to serve them; we need raffle prizes and, because the raffle is one of the biggest earners, we need you to sell as many raffle tickets as you can. Father Christmass will be there, so bring the children along to meet him.

If you have any questions, can offer help, need anything, please ring Cynthia Borrill who is organising the event.

**BRT**

**Donations for the Bonanza:** Boxes will be available at the back of the Church, or donations can be left in the hall on Mondays from 9.00-11.30am.

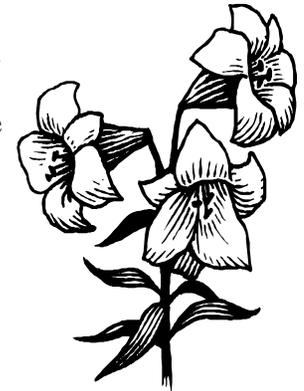
21.11.08: Help required for setting up the hall please – from 2.00-4.00pm or 7.00-9.00pm.

22.11.08: Serious help needed from 8.00am please, also from 3.30pm. Any queries please telephone 526463.

*Cynthia Borrill*

## PARISH CHURCH FLOWERS

All three of our churches have flowers for most of the year, except, of course, Advent and Lent. In addition to the normal provision, all three of our churches provide extra flowers and decorations for festivals. Now flowers don't grow on trees! I know they grow in the ground, but that ground is usually owned by a wholesaler who then sells them to our flower ladies.



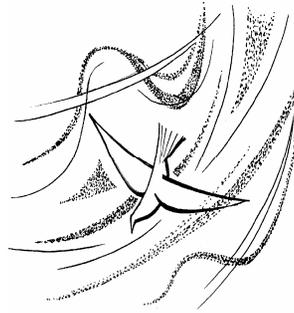
The Parish Church Flower Guild is finding the provision of flowers very expensive, and apart from the occasional coffee morning, there are no other funds for this. The Parish Church Committee therefore has suggested that we should ask you to provide the flowers for a particular Sunday in memory of a loved one, or perhaps because it is your birthday or wedding anniversary or some other reason to celebrate. To acknowledge this the weekly news sheet would state 'The flowers this week are given in memory of ..... ' or 'to celebrate.....'

If we go ahead with this it will be announced in church; then look out for the inevitable piece of paper to sign!

**BRT**

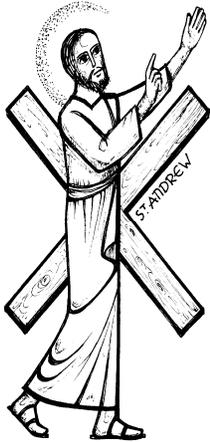
## CONFIRMATION

For many years we have had our confirmation on the feast of the Birthday of S John the Baptist, 24 June. As I shall have retired before that date, and as there are some people who want to be confirmed, I asked Bishop John if he would come for a confirmation before I went, and he has kindly agreed to do so on Sunday 8 February 2009. This will be a Combined Service at 10.30am, and if you want to know more about confirmation, please let me know immediately – we shall start groups for young people and for adults very soon.



## BRT

### ST ANDREW S



On Saturday, 27 September, a nearly full church was treated to a concert by the Brixham Orpheus Choir with their special guests, Buccas Four Quartet of Newlyn, Cornwall. Both the choir and the quartet gave their fees to church funds for which we thank them.

Saturday 30 November: St Andrew's Day. Sung Mass at 7.00pm.

Coming in December: The Tim Pitman Christmass Concert. Look out for more details next month.

Just a reminder: Every Tuesday 10.30am – 12.30pm Coffee and Chat. Also following Mass at 11.00am on Wednesdays we hold a lunch. Please join us.

*Paul Siviers*

## ST. BONIFACE

At the time of writing, I have been at St. Boniface just over 2 months, and am greatly encouraged by the love and support shown to Brigid and me as we settle into the way of life here in Paignton.

In September at St. Boniface, we had a Baptism during our Sunday morning Mass on 21st, when we welcomed the family and friends of Brandon Pereira and on "Back to Church" Sunday (when we also celebrated our Harvest Thanksgiving) our usual numbers were very nearly doubled. At these two services we experimented with a slightly different form of setting for the Mass. These seemed to be well accepted, and we will perhaps continue to use alternative settings occasionally.

A good time was had by all at our Harvest Supper on 29 September and we extend our thanks to all who helped in any way to make it such a splendid occasion.

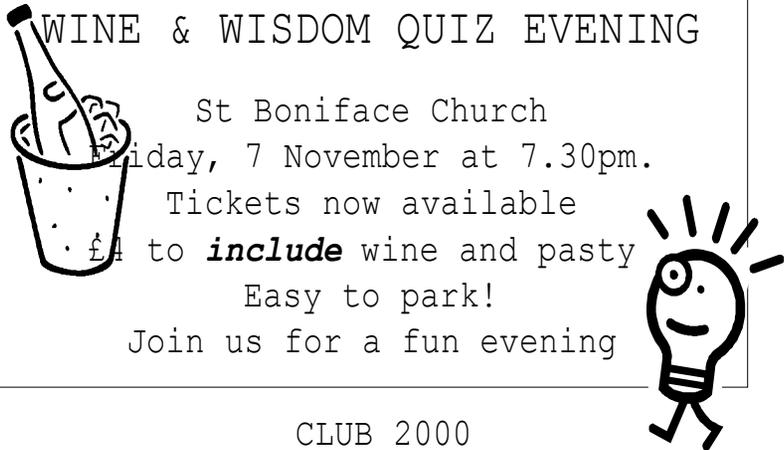
Our Tuesday Coffee Mornings continue to be a success and as part of our outreach to the Foxhole community they are now to be held every week from 10.00am – 12 noon along similar lines to the Monday event at the Parish Hall, with an extended range of items for sale, and a raffle. Any items for either the table top/clothing sale or the raffle would be gratefully received. We hope to be able to draw in more and more local people as word spreads, and find new ways of being able to connect with them and provide a place of friendship, comfort and peace for them as a starting point for spreading the Good News.

We ask for your continued prayers as we reach out to the people on the estate and endeavour to work to build up the Kingdom of God.

Every Tuesday, 10.00am – 12 noon, free coffee and Table Top items for sale.

Prize Bingo – Wednesday 26 November

*Fr Bob*



WINE & WISDOM QUIZ EVENING

St Boniface Church  
Friday, 7 November at 7.30pm.  
Tickets now available  
£4 to **include** wine and pasty  
Easy to park!  
Join us for a fun evening

CLUB 2000

Thursday 13 November: Coach trip to Clarke's Village

Friday 14 November: Bingo 7.30pm

*Cynthia Borrill*

#### PARISH LADIES GROUP

Our enrolment evening, when 45 ladies enrolled as member of the group, was a huge success. We were also delighted to welcome some new members. We enjoyed a gourmet feast. What great cooks! The consensus was that we need more evenings like this to avail ourselves of the chance to talk to each other and to enjoy each other's company.

At this meeting a tribute was paid to Joan Silley, a great lady and one of our faithful members, who died this summer. We miss you, Joan, and will always be grateful to the contribution you made to our group.

In October our coffee morning, in aid of our church funds, was extremely well attended and raided the grand total of £200. Many thanks to the committee, the other workers from the group, to bakers, contributors and to those who came, and, especially to those, who unable to come, were generous enough to buy tickets.

Our November meeting will be on Monday, 24 November at 7.30pm when we shall hear about the work of the Devon Air Ambulance, a service we may all need at some point in our lives.

Our Christmass Bonanza stall on 22 November needs your support, both in gifts and in workers. Wonderful gifts have been received, but more are needed. Please leave gifts at the back of the Church for collection. Be sure to mark them "Ladies' Group". Many thanks.

Tickets will soon be on sale for our Christmass party (sherry, mince pies and music) on Monday, 8 December at 7.30pm. The proceeds will go to Devon Air Ambulance. If transport in needed please contact us.

*Audrey Smith*

#### OUTLOOK

The Parish Charity Shop, with a small but very dedicated team of volunteers, continues to flourish. Unlike many other charity shops in the locality, we accept all donations offered and we are both fortunate and appreciate all the items given.

Although we accept electrical items, by law we are not allowed to sell them to the public without an electrician's safety certificate unless they are in their original box. If anyone knows of a qualified electrician, with the necessary certificate who is willing to help by checking these items we should be grateful.

Holidays and sickness have sometimes made it difficult to staff the shop so we would appreciate offers of help and even if this cannot be on a regular basis, it would be good to have a reserve of people to cover when necessary.

To maximise profits, we do not purchase bubble wrap or tissue paper but are always in need of this and would appreciate your help here.

Many thanks.

*Carol Haggett*

## ORGAN RECITAL

Thursday 13 November 7.30pm

This year's last organ concert

Request recital

£5 entry to include a glass of wine or  
orange juice

Programme presently includes: Toccata and  
Fugue in D minor Bach, Nimrod Elgar,  
Arrival of the Queen of Sheba Handel,  
Andante Ficcio, Tango Sixten, Widor's  
Toccata, Sortie in E flat (the fairground  
one!) Lefebure-Wely, etc etc.

Requests welcome by the end of  
October.



## YELLOW MOON

On behalf of the Evening Mothers' Union I would like to thank everyone who bought goods from a catalogue so far this year. Your purchases have raised £32.17 which has been given towards the new hall fund. Thank you very much for your contribution.

New catalogues will be available at the back of the church for anyone wanting to purchase goods. Please contact myself on 01803 521303 or Moira Devonport for more information. Thank you.

## Denise Morris

## BELL RINGING NEWS

John Kelly BEM, Captain of Paignton Bell Ringers since 1958, has been proposed as President Elect for the Devon Association of Ringers and this has to be ratified at the AGM on 8 November 2008. Should this happen, it will mean that Paignton's very own representative, John Kelly, will become President Elect for 2008 and then President of the Association for a year as from November 2009. This is a very prestigious position and Paignton will have a good ambassador in John who will be expected to attend the many bell ringing events held throughout the County of Devon.

The bell ringers lead a very sociable life. Not only do they ring for services, festivals and weddings, they also practice on Tuesdays and in addition ring at competitions at other churches to improve ringing for services. Ringers arrange many of their own events and like John use the events to raise money and to raise the profile of a charity.

To learn more about church bell-ringing, join John for a practice evening at Paignton Parish Church on Tuesdays at 7.30pm.

## Hand Bells

Christmas is certainly a wonderful opportunity for people to give and many do so very generously. Paignton Hand Bell ringers gladly arrange and perform hand bell ringing entirely at their own expense. Every year since 1955, Paignton Hand Bell Ringers have been ringing leading up to Christmas and the New Year with the aim of raising funds for Dame Hannah Rogers School. John has been responsible for raising more than £57,000 for the Dame Hannah Rogers Trust, which helps severely disabled children.

Anyone wanting to sponsor John's fund-raising efforts or wish the hand bell ringers to entertain them or a group can call Mary Knott, the booking clerk, on 01803 843284.

**Michael Webster**

PARISH REGISTERS

<b>Baptisms:</b>	21.9.08	Brandon Miles Lionel Pereira	
	28.9.08	Alfie William Thomas	
		Alex George Veysey	
		Oliver Michael O'Brien	
		Harvey Lee Ross	
	5.10.98	Delta Padme Dolores Shaw	
<b>Wedding:</b>	13.9.08	Jason Brooks & Catherine Parkes	
<b>Funerals:</b>	22.8.08	Joan Barbara Burris	87
	29.8.08	Betty Matilda Mills	88
	2.9.08	Laurence Baskerville Northcott	90
	25.9.08	Elsie Phyllis Binmore	82
	10.10.08	Noreen Mary Adams	74
	24.10.08	Peter John Page	83
	24.10.08	Patricia May Lumby	86
	27.10.08	Joan Pamela Taylor	71

**Betty Mills** was a very faithful member of our Sunday congregation, with her husband Roy until he died some years ago. Unfortunately, I was not able to take her funeral service as I was on holiday, but Fr Bob tells me there were members of our congregation at it, which is good. We offer our sympathy to her daughter-in-law and grandsons.

CALENDAR FOR NOVEMBER

Sun	2	6.00pm	Evensong & Benediction: Parish Church
Mon	3	9.30am	Mass – Parish Church & St Boniface
		11.00am	Mass – St Andrew's
		5.30pm	Mass – Parish Church
Tue	4	6.30pm	JC's Gang-stars
		8.00pm	Baptism Preparation
Wed	5	10.00am	Mothers' Union Corporate Communion
Fri	7	7.30pm	Wine & Wisdom: S Boniface
Sat	8	10.00am	Quiet Day: Brunel Manor. See above
Sun	9	6.00pm	Evening Prayer: S Boniface
Wed	12	7.00pm	Parochial Church Council
Thu	13	7.30pm	Organ Recital: Parish Church
Sun	16	6.00pm	Memorial Service: Parish Church
Tue	18	6.30pm	JC's Gang-stars
Thu	20	9.00am	Magazine material to Vicarage please
Sat	22	11.00am	Christmass Bonanza: Parish Church Hall

Sun	23	2.30pm	Holy Baptism: Parish Church
		6.00pm	Evensong & Benediction: S Andrew's
Sat	29	6.00pm	Sung Mass: S Andrew's
Sun	30	6.30pm	Advent Service: Parish Church

INTERCESSIONS FOR NOVEMBER

Sat	1	Of Our Lady	The Peace of the world
Sun	2	<b>ALL SAINTS</b>	Thanksgiving for the saints
Mon	3	<b>All Souls</b>	The Faithful Departed
Tue	4	S Charles Borromeo B	Those asking for baptism
Wed	5	Feria	The Mothers' Union
Thu	6	S Leonard	Our schools
Fri	7	S Willibrord B	All missionaries
Sat	8	<b>All Saints of England</b>	Our nation
Sun	9	<b>3<sup>rd</sup> BEFORE ADVENT</b> <b>Remembrance Sunday</b>	Those who have died as a result of war
Mon	10	S Leo the Great	All theologians
Tue	11	S Martin of Tours B	S Martin's Barton
Wed	12	Feria	The Parochial Church Council
Thu	13	Feria	The Clergy of the Deanery
Fri	14	Feria	Sheltered accommodation
Sat	15	Of Our Lady	Walsingham
Sun	16	<b>2nd BEFORE ADVENT</b>	Those who will attend our Memorial Service
Mon	17	S Hugh B	The sick and the housebound
Tue	18	S Elizabeth	The poor and destitute
Wed	19	S Hilda	All nuns
Thu	20	S Edmund KM	Our Queen
Fri	21	Presentation of the BVM	Our Cathedral Church
Sat	22	S Cecelia M	Our Organist and Choir
Sun	23	<b>CHRIST THE KING</b>	Submission to the Gospel
Mon	24	S Andrew Dung Lac M	The Church in Vietnam
Tue	25	S Catherine	Paignton Hospital
Wed	26	Feria	The medical profession
Thu	27	Feria	All teachers
Fri	28	Feria	Rowcroft Hospice
Sat	29	<b>S ANDREW A</b>	S Andrew's Church & people

Sun	30	<b>ADVENT 1</b>	Our keeping of Advent
-----	----	-----------------	-----------------------

